

MHSA News

Published by the Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association

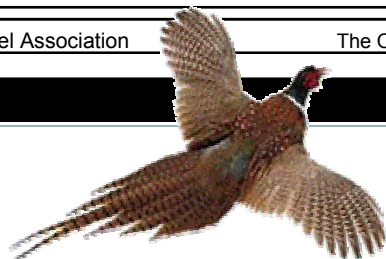
The Only American Kennel Club Licensed All Spaniel Hunting Dog Club

March 2011

Volume 21 Number 3



**Officers &
Board of
Directors**



From the President...

Hunting Dogs – Is Steady or Unsteady Better?

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In my last president's letter I shared a story about hunting wild pheasants with my two springer spaniels. Both of my dogs are steady to wing and shot, meaning that they are trained to sit whenever a bird is flushed or a shot is fired, and I insist on their steadiness even while "just" hunting. It only makes sense to me that if you've steadied a dog to participate in field trials or master hunter hunt tests that, given the considerable training efforts expended, you'd want to make sure to maintain that steadiness even while hunting.

But what should a hunter do if they don't run their dog in field trials or master hunt tests? Is it better to hunt with a steady or an unsteady dog? Which will put more birds in the bag? There are logical arguments on both sides.

Unsteady is Better

A primary argument presented in favor of hunting with unsteady dogs is that such a dog can get to a shot bird faster if it chases after the flying bird as soon as it is flushed. While there may be some validity to this argument, I don't think that it creates a large advantage to a chasing dog unless there is a lot of bird scent on the ground in the area of the fall. If there is a lot of scent, getting to the spot where the bird hit the ground more quickly may give a dog a head start in trailing out a moving bird before it crosses through a lot of additional scent from other birds that can prevent the dog from finding the cripple. However, unless you regularly hunt in areas of extreme bird density this scenario rarely comes into play in the real world.

Then there is the simplicity argument. It certainly is easier to allow your dog to chase after birds than to expend the effort to steady the dog and to keep it steady while hunting. Hunting an unsteady dog also allows the hunter to pretty much disregard the dog once a bird has been flushed, and instead focus only on shooting the bird. While some hunters might prefer this, especially if putting meat on the table is the primary focus, I think that clearly some of the teamwork between dog and hunter that I find enjoyable is sacrificed. However, the simplicity argument goes beyond just the efforts required to steady a dog,

because there is really no such thing as being done with steadying. Once you've steadied a dog you need to be ever vigilant to make sure you keep the dog that way. As I related in my hunting story last month, I now sometimes hunt both of my dogs together. But doing so requires a considerable amount of confidence that both dogs will both be steady and honor each other's retrieves or the situation can quickly turn into an un-training exercise. So, without a doubt, it's easier just to hunt with an unsteady dog.

Steady is Better

Perhaps the best argument for hunting with a steady dog has to do with safety and allowing shots at low flying birds. A hupped dog is rarely in position to prevent a safe shot at a flushed bird, whereas a chasing dog is more likely to be close to the hunter's line of fire which can pre-

vent a shot (in the best case) or present a threat to the dog if the hunter takes a questionable shot (obviously, the worst case). Additionally, running dogs are more frequently near the line of fire even if they don't prevent a safe shot. Given the fairly high incidence of deafness in older hunting dogs, it seems logical to me that being directly in front of too many muzzle blasts is probably a significant factor in such hearing loss. And I'd argue that a chasing dog experiences more muzzle blasts, and of greater intensity, compared to a non-chasing dog if both are shot over the same amount.

Another argument in favor of steadiness is that a dog can better mark the fall of a bird while stationary than if it's chasing after the bird. I tend to agree that a stationary dog does have a slight marking advantage, but I don't think it's a huge benefit in favor of steadiness. And since a chasing dog can get to the spot of the fall a bit faster, I'd say these two factors are pretty much a wash in regard to which type of dog has a retrieving advantage.

I've heard of a few other arguments in favor of steadiness. If multiple birds are flushed, a chasing dog might pursue the wrong bird, such as a pheasant hen, and fail to see the fall of a legal bird that is shot. Similarly, if there are multiple birds in one area of a field and a dog chases after a hen that is not shot at, or a rooster that is missed, it can flush additional legal birds a long way out, or even out of range. These additional birds might have been flushed within close range if the dog hadn't chased the first bird. Also, in the fairly rare instance of multiple shot birds, a chasing dog will probably only mark the fall of the first shot bird, making recovery of a second (or even third) shot bird more difficult.

Clearly, these arguments favoring both steady and unsteady dogs are based on rather rare occurrences in the field. So, while there are specific situations where a steady or unsteady dog has an advantage in bringing birds to the bag, there is no clear-cut winner.

I do find it odd that a significant number of people refuse to hunt their field trial dogs because they're afraid of unsteady-ing them, or of placing them in other situations that they can't control. Quite to the contrary, I know that by hunting my dogs I not only maintain, but actually enhance, their steadiness. And my dogs are also exposed to a lot of learning situations while hunting that I can't, couldn't, or wouldn't set up in training.

However, easily the greatest benefit of hunting behind my steady dogs is that it allows me the enjoyment of hunting with them. And at the same time, I'm also training them for field trials. Who says you can't have your cake and eat it too?



MHSA Memorials

Gone but not forgotten in 2010:

Ladie

Libby

Blue

Mishka

Riley

Aspen

Annie

Lacey

Beckett

I STOOD BESIDE YOUR BED LAST NIGHT

I stood by your bed last night, I came to have a peep. I could see that you were crying, You found it hard to sleep.

I whined to you softly as you brushed away a tear, "It's me, I haven't left you, I'm well, I'm fine, I'm here."

I was close to you at breakfast, I watched you pour the tea, You were thinking of the many times, your hands reached down to me.

I was with you at the shops today, Your arms were getting sore. I longed to take your parcels, I wish I could do more.

I was with you at my grave today, You tend it with such care. I want to reassure you, that I'm not lying there.

I walked with you towards the house, as you fumbled for your key. I gently put my paw on you, I smiled and said "It's me."

You looked so very tired, and sank into a chair. I tried so hard to let you know, that I was standing there.

It's possible for me, to be so near you everyday. To say to you with certainty, "I never went away."

You sat there very quietly, then smiled, I think you knew ... in the stillness of that evening, I was very close to you.

The day is over... I smile and watch you yawning and say "Goodnight, I'll see you in the morning."

And when the time is right for you to cross the brief divide, I'll rush across to greet you and we'll stand, side by side.

I have so many things to show you, there is so much for you to see. Be patient, live your journey out ... then come home to be with me.

The **Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association** invites you to join us for our two AKC licensed Spaniel Hunting Tests taking place on May 7th and 8th at Major Avenue Hunt Club in Glencoe, Minnesota. Entrants will be notified by mail or e-mail when running orders are sent after the drawing takes place on April 27th. Below is a map to the hunt tests.

The tests will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. in two fields. The test headquarters will be in the clubhouse, and there will be coffee and rolls available in the morning when you check in.

We invite you to stay and join us for a pheasant barbecue after the test on Saturday. We will be grilling the birds from the day's shoot. The hunt club will provide the rest of the dinner for \$5 per person. After the barbecue we will hold our annual raffle for great prizes! If you would like to contribute a prize to the raffle please give it to the test chair or secretary prior to the barbecue. Plan on joining us for an enjoyable time.

Please remember that during the tests:

- ✓ Everyone must wear an article of blaze orange, no smaller than a hat, while in the field. A vest, shirt, or jacket is preferred.
- ✓ Only flat collars are allowed on the test grounds.

Listed below are hotels and motels in the area. Please make your reservations early, and remember to check their pet policy.

American Inn (800)-634-3444

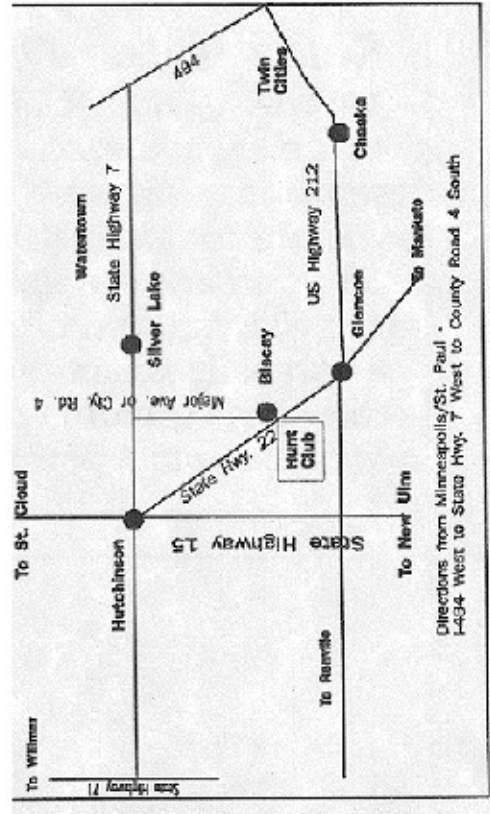
Super 8 (800)-800-8000

King Motel (320)-587-4737

Best Western Victorian Inn (320) 587-6030

Please call or e-mail me with any questions.

Dean Koehler, Hunt Test Secretary, (507) 236-1268, koehlerd@tc.umn.edu



EVENT #2011446203

HUNTING TEST PREMIUM LIST

AKC Licensed Spaniel Hunting Test
Open to all Flushing Spaniels and Airedales

MINNESOTA HUNTING SPANIEL ASSOCIATION



Major Avenue Hunt Club, 11721 Major Ave, Glencoe, MN
SATURDAY, May 7th, 2011

Limited to fifty (50) entries. Entries will close when the limit is reached, if this occurs prior to the specified closing time. Phone, fax or email entries or cancellations may not be accepted. **Payment must accompany all entries. Make checks payable to MHSA.**

This hunting test is held under the rules and procedures of the
AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

MAIL ENTRIES WITH FEES TO: Dean Koehler, 485 Ash Street, Shakopee, MN 55379, Phone (507) 236-1268. Entries will close and drawing will take place at 6:00PM (CDT) Wednesday, April 27th, 2011 with the hunt test secretary at 485 Ash Street, Shakopee, MN 55379. Signature must be waived on carrier delivered entries.

OFFICERS

President – Dean Koehler, 485 Ash St, Shakopee, MN 55379
Vice-President - Bethann Wiley, 13733 Square Lake Trl N, Stillwater, MN 55082
Secretary – Nathan Reinhardt, 406 E 5th St, New Richmond, WI 54023
Treasurer - Lynn Lynch, 5612 44th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417

HUNT TEST COMMITTEE

Chair: Heidi Reinhardt 406 East 5th Street New Richmond, WI 54023
Secretary: Dean Koehler 485 Ash Street Shakopee, MN 55379

Curt Poquette
Nathan Reinhardt
Bethann Wiley
Richard Bend

JUDGES AND TESTS TO BE JUDGED

JUNIOR HUNTING TEST

Greg Livingston # Z9480; 3133 121st Ave NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433
 Debra Livingston, #ZC 288, 3133 121st Ave NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433

SENIOR HUNTING TEST

Greg Livingston # Z9480; 3133 121st Ave NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433
 Debra Livingston, #ZC 288, 3133 121st Ave NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433

MASTER HUNTING TEST

Rumi Schroeder, #ZF554, N7447 Irish Rd, Hilbert, WI 54129
 Dawn Schuster, #90724, N2090 Hwy 55, Kaukauna, WI 54130

HUNTING TEST MARSHAL

Nadine Kohn

GUN CAPTAIN

John Dairtt

TEST SCHEDULES AND ENTRY FEES

Junior Hunting Test: 8:30 AM, Saturday, May 7th, 2011 \$55.00

Senior Hunting Test: after 8:30 AM, Saturday, May 7th, 2011 \$55.00

Master Hunting Test: 8:30 AM, Saturday, May 7th, 2011 \$55.00

- Entry fees will not be refunded in the event that a dog is absent, disqualified, excused by a judge or barred from the test by action of the hunt test committee.
- Entry fees will be refunded minus a \$5.00 handling charge per day for bitches in season or dogs injured after the closing date if a veterinarian certificate is presented to the hunt test secretary.
- No entry fee will be refunded if the test cannot be open or completed by reason of riots, civil disturbance, an act of God, public emergency, act of a public enemy, or any other cause beyond the control of the committee.

COURSES AND BIRDS

Pheasants and/or Chukars and/or Pigeons – Land – Junior
 Pheasants and/or Chukars – Land – Senior and Master

Note: Decoys may be used at the water.

PRIZES

Standard AKC Rosettes to all dogs receiving Qualifying Scores

**OFFICIAL AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB ENTRY FORM
 FOR FIELD TRIAL/HUNTING TESTS**

Saturday, May 7th, 2011
 Event #2011446203

Note: This Entry Form Must Be Completed in Full

**Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association
 Major Avenue Hunt Club Glencoe MN**

I SUBMIT \$ 55.00 for entry fees. Enter in Stake/Test

NAME OF DOG (Print)	CALL NAME
A.K.C. Reg. Number	Or A.K.C. Litter Number (If Dog Not Reg.)
Or Foreign Reg. No.	And Country of Registry
Breed	MALE FEMALE Date of Birth
Sire	
Dam	
Breeder	
Name of Actual Owner (Print)	
Owner's Address	
City	State Zip Code
Phone No.	Email
Name of Handler (Print)	

I CERTIFY that I am the actual owner of this dog, or that I am the duly authorized agent of the actual owner whose name I have entered above. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I agree to abide by all the rules of The American Kennel Club and the Standard Procedures governing this Field Trial and any decisions made in accord with them, and I further agree that the dog is entered in and will be at this trial at my own risk and that I will hold the trial giving club, its membership and agents free from liability for any claims arising out of the entry of the dog or its presence at the trial.

SIGNATURE of Owner or His Agent
 Duly Authorized to Make this Entry
 Address of Agent (If Any Signs Above Line for Owner)

Street _____ Phone No. _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

The **Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association** invites you to join us for our two AKC licensed Spaniel Hunting Tests taking place on May 7th and 8th at Major Avenue Hunt Club in Glencoe, Minnesota. Entrants will be notified by mail or e-mail when running orders are sent after the drawing takes place on April 27th. Below is a map to the hunt tests.

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Please remember that during the tests:

- ✓ Everyone must wear an article of blaze orange, no smaller than a hat, while in the field. A vest, shirt, or jacket is preferred.
- ✓ Only flat collars are allowed on the test grounds.

Listed below are hotels and motels in the area. Please make your reservations early, and remember to check their pet policy.

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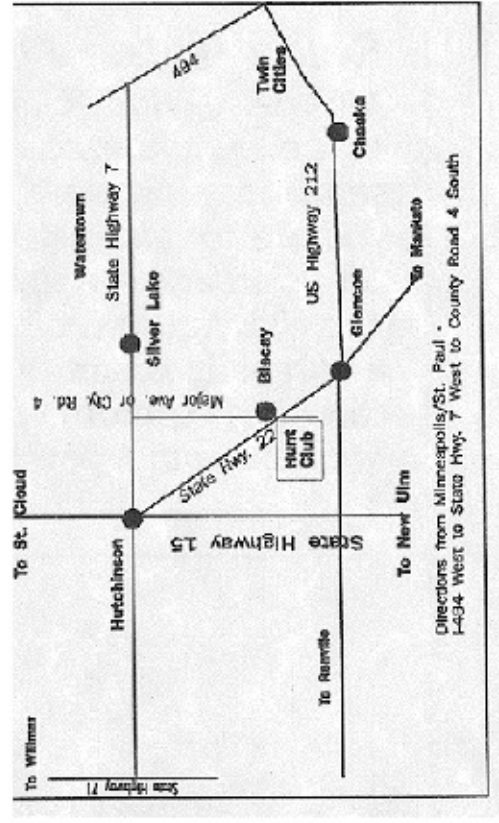
Super 8 (800)-800-8000

King Motel (320)-587-4737

Best Western Victorian Inn (320) 587-6030

Please call or e-mail me with any questions.

Dean Koehler, Hunt Test Secretary, (507) 236-1268, koehler@tc.umn.edu



EVENT #2011446204

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AKC Licensed Spaniel Hunting Test
Open to all Flushing Spaniels and Airedales

MINNESOTA HUNTING SPANIEL ASSOCIATION



Major Avenue Hunt Club, 11721 Major Ave, Glencoe, MN

SUNDAY, May 8th, 2011

Limited to fifty (50) entries. Entries will close when the limit is reached, if this occurs prior to the specified closing time. Phone, fax or email entries or cancellations may not be accepted. **Payment must accompany all entries. Make checks payable to MHSA.**

This hunting test is held under the rules and procedures of the
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Curt Pquette
Nathan Reinhardt

Bethann Wiley
Richard Bend

JUDGES AND TESTS TO BE JUDGED

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 Dawn Schuster, #90724, N2090 Hwy 55, Kaukauna, WI 54130

SENIOR HUNTING TEST

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HUNTING TEST MARSHAL

Nadine Kohn

GUN CAPTAIN

John Dartt

TEST SCHEDULES AND ENTRY FEES

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 Major Avenue Hunt Club Glencoe MN**

I SUBMIT \$ 55.00	for entry fees.	Enter in Stake/Test
NAME OF DOG (Print)	CALL NAME	
A.K.C. Reg. Number	Or A.K.C. Litter Number (If Dog Not Reg.)	
Or Foreign Reg. No.	And Country of Registry	
Breed	MALE	FEMALE
Sire		Date of Birth
Dam		
Breeder		
Name of Actual Owner (Print)		
Owner's Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone No.		Email
Name of Handler (Print)		

I CERTIFY that I am the actual owner of this dog, or that I am the duly authorized agent of the actual owner whose name I have entered above. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I agree to abide by all the rules of The American Kennel Club and the Standard Procedures governing this Field Trial and any decisions made in accord with them, and I further agree that the dog is entered in and will be at this trial at my own risk and that I will hold the trial giving club, its membership and agents free from liability for any claims arising out of the entry of the dog or its presence at the trial.

SIGNATURE of Owner or His Agent
 Duly Authorized to Make this Entry
 Address of Agent (If Any Signs Above Line for Owner)

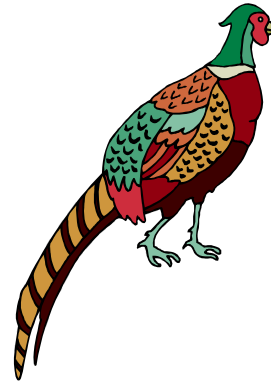
Street _____ Phone No. _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____



Volunteers are needed!

MHSA's annual field trial and hunt tests are in the works. Please contact Heidi if you would like to volunteer.

hydexxi@gmail.com



The MHSA Yahoo discussion group is up and running! If you have not signed up please go to

www.yahogroups.com

and look up

MNHuntingspaniel

to join our group. If you would rather have an invitation to join sent directly to you with the link please email Bethann Wiley at bethannwiley@yahoo.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MINNESOTA HUNTING SPANIEL ASSOCIATION

For the flushing spaniel . . . and it's family

The Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association is an American Kennel Club licensed non-profit club organized to:

- PROVIDE: Information and education for members and the public on care, breeding, training and ability testing for purebred flushing spaniels.
- PROMOTE: Family activities and participation for owners of purebred flushing spaniels.
- CONDUCT: Training programs, hunting tests, working trials and related events to promote our breeds' abilities
- ENCOURAGE: Sportsmanship in all dog events and activities

The MHSAA is dedicated to the: American Cocker Spaniel, American Water Spaniel, Boykin Spaniel, Clumber Spaniel, English Cocker Spaniel, English Springer Spaniel, Field Spaniel, Sussex Spaniel, and Welsh Springer Spaniel.

General Membership meetings are held in the Twin Cities area. Meetings are open to all family members, guests and interested individuals. Each meeting provides an educational or informative topic as well as the opportunity for fellowship and socializing.

Regular annual events include: Club picnics, training days, holiday parties, awards banquet and election, working trials, field trails, fun trials, working dog tests and hunting tests.

We join with other dog clubs to sponsor events of interest to spaniel owners and other breed fanciers. We work with community and social service agencies to provide special services and activities to benefit animals and people.

Many of our club members are very knowledgeable in dog care, training and breeding and are willing to assist other dog owners.

The \$35.00 annual membership is for an individual or family.

Membership Application / Renewal Form

____ New Membership ____ Renewal Membership year: _____

Family Name: _____ First Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

Home Ph: _____ Work Ph: _____ Cell/Other Ph: _____

Email address: _____

Number of Dogs in Household: _____ Breed(s): _____

What are you goals with the club? Hunting ____ Hunt Tests ____ Field Trials ____ Other ____

What skills could you contribute to the club? _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Mail Application with \$35.00 Membership Fee to:
Heidi Reinhardt, Membership Chair
406 East 5th St, New Richmond, WI 54017

MHSA March Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 1st, 2011, 6:30 PM

The Sunshine Factory, 7600 42nd Av N, New Hope

1. CALL TO ORDER (established quorum)

Dean Koehler - Present	Bethann Wiley - Present
Nate Reinhardt - Present	Lynn Lynch - Present
Kathy Patregnani - Present	Hudson Nichols - Present
Curt Poquette - Present	Scott Lichty - Present
Chris Dartt - Not Present	

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Moved and approved.

3. **SECRETARY’S REPORT** - Amend the January minutes to reflect the purchase of 4 bird crates.

4. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Current balance is \$7350.30

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – none

6. CLUB EVENTS for 2011

April 29th -May 1 (Fri-Sun), Cocker Spaniel Field Trial – Major Avenue

Chair: Kim Wiley, Secretary: Bethann Wiley

Judges: Randy Manore & Bob Fink, Gun Captain: John Dartt

May 7 & 8 (Sat&Sun) – AKC Spaniel Hunt Tests - Major Avenue

Chair: Heidi Reinhardt, Secretary: Dean Koehler

Judges: Rumi Schroeder, Dawn Schuster, Greg Livingston, Deb Livingston

June 11 (Sat) – Training Day, Working Dog Test & Potluck – Good Going Kennels

Training Chair: Bethann Wiley

Working Dog Test Chair: Brett Edstrom

June 26 (Sun) – Fun Trial - Major Avenue

Chair: Linda Simon

July 24 (Sun) – Fun Trial - Major Avenue

Chair: Linda Simon

July ____ – Training Day – Good Going Kennels?

Chair: _____ Bethann Wiley?

July 30 (Sat), – MHSA Water Training, Summer Picnic & Membership Meeting - Bend’s, Afton

Chair: Dick Bend

Membership Meeting – Vote on clarification of votes/membership & membership count to establish quorum

August 21 (Sun) – Fun Trial - Major Avenue

Chair: Linda Simon

August ____ – Training Day – Good Going Kennels?

Chair: _____ Bethann Wiley?

September 10 & 11 (Sat*Sun) – AKC Spaniel Hunt Tests - Major Avenue

Chair: Hudson Nichols

Secretary: _____?

October 27-30 (Thur-Sun) 2011 Nat'l Cocker Championship Field Trial – Little Moran Hunting Club, Staples, MN

Chair: Kim Wiley, Secretary: Bethann Wiley

7. OLD BUSINESS

A) Criteria for MHSA Awards (non-AKC titles & chevrons for dog achievement plaques)

- Criteria for MHSA Awards (chevrons for dog achievement plaques)

The following was moved:

Chevrons are currently awarded for AKC and parent club titles. It is moved that in addition to the AKC and parent club titles, chevrons will also be awarded to dogs belonging to MHSA members for each Field Trial placement (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) earned in AKC Open and Amateur All-Age Stakes.

The motion was seconded and passed. The board is looking into the cost of chevrons and will come up with a proposal regarding retroactively awarding chevrons for field trial placements to qualifying dogs of MHSA members.

- MHSA Policy regarding non-AKC, non-parent club titles and awards

Since the MHSA is an AKC club, by consensus the board feels that chevrons should be awarded for AKC and parent club titles and field trial placements only. However, we will revise the year-end awards application to more clearly encourage members to also indicate non-AKC, non-parent club honors that their dogs have earned. Such honors will be verbally recognized at the MHSA Awards Banquet, and each dog earning such honors will be recognized with a certificate listing these achievements earned by each dog during the previous year.

B) Club radios – Order details were distributed via the Yahoo mailing list.

C) Bird Crate Purchase – 4 Crates purchased, received and assembled.

D) Major Avenue Membership – club and individual members – Nothing new to report

E) Proposed Constitutional Amendment - Clarify who has the right to vote at membership meetings

Proposal presented by Dean Koehler– see attachment 1. This proposal needs to be approved by the board, then will be presented to the full membership, and will be voted on at the next membership meeting.

F) Other Old Business? None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A) Conference call service for board meetings – FreeConferenceCall.com

Conference call feasibility has been tested and certified. The April MHSA Board meeting will be held via conference call.

9. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS - none

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – none

11. ADJOURNMENT – moved and passed.

The next MHSA board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30 PM via conference call.

Attachment 1.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - Clarify who has the right to vote at membership meetings

Article II. Section 2: Types of Membership – CURRENT WORDING

There shall be one type of membership. Two individuals (husband and wife or significant others) residing in the same household may apply on the same application and in such case shall pay dues the same as for an individual membership. Both of the individuals named on said application shall be entitled to all rights, privileges and awards within the Association, as shall any children under the age of 18.

Article II. Section 2: Types of Membership – PROPOSED WORDING

There shall be one type of membership. Two individuals **aged 18 or older** residing in the same household may apply on the same application and in such case shall pay dues the same as for an individual membership. Both of the individuals **designated as voting members** on said application shall **have the right to vote at membership meetings. In addition to the two voting members, all other household members including any children under the age of 18, are** entitled to all **additional** rights, privileges and awards within the Association excluding voting.

This change clarifies that there can be a maximum of 2 votes per paid membership, consisting of two persons aged 18 or older from one household. The two voting members must be specified on the membership application.

Children under the age of 18 and all other family members have all other (non-voting) privileges (including participation in club events, eligibility for awards, etc.)

By requiring that voting members be specified on the membership application (including yearly renewals) this provides a mechanism for establishing an accurate count of members. In turn, this makes it possible to determine a required quorum number at membership meetings, and permits adoption of constitutional amendments in compliance with the requirements specified in the constitution, including having a count of voting members so the 2/3 voting requirement can be determined.

Membership forms will be adjusted to reflect these changes and, if passed, this change will go into effect for membership year 2012.