



HCARC Newsletter

October 2023

<u>HCARC Officers</u>		<u>Board Members</u>	
President	Chris Brandl	Wayne Anderson	Sid Sondag
Vice President	Linda Twiss	Mark Belford	Dave Pichotta
Secretary	Rose Meyer	Tom McMorrow	Brian Zard
Treasurer	John Buesgens	Tom Newell	

Presidents Message

Greetings Hennepin County Amateur Retriever Club Member,

The Benton Retriever Grounds board meeting was held September 5th and several agenda items were discussed and voted on.

Since BRG was one of the only training grounds with usable water this summer several outside clubs approached BRG to hold training days and events on the BRG grounds this summer which BRG granted. The board passed a motion that in 2024:

1. Outside club training days will not be allowed.
2. Grounds rental for outside club events on a limited basis shall be \$500 per day for north grounds and \$500 per day for main grounds.

The major project on the BRG grounds this summer was repairing the causeway on the main grounds water, road repair, filling in holes and low spots in various areas and smoothing out rough areas around the pond edges. This project is now complete, and the

excavator did a satisfactory job.

The projects discussed by the BRG board for 2024 was creating a gravel road where the existing grass road on the main grounds along the north and east property lines to hook up with the existing gravel roads at each corner. This item was tabled until 2024 when bids for this project can be studied.

Both MFTA and HCARC are currently in a strong financial position with each club having approximately \$30,000 in the bank. These funds are earned by the events that are held on the grounds and those dollars are spent on the upkeep, maintenance, and grounds improvement projects at BRG. If you have a suggestion for a project to improve the grounds at BRG let myself or any board member know.

As far as the ponds are concerned, the intention is to keep the water levels high until freeze up this winter. In the past we have stopped pumping water after the fall events and let the water recede which meant in the spring if there was low snowpack or rainfall it was a struggle for the wells to raise the water level to a suitable height for the spring events and training.

Everyone have a safe and fun hunting season!

Chris Brandl
HCARC President

Mark Your Calendar

➤ **Spring 2024 Workday**

April 6, 2024 @ 9am

The major focus will be to clean out and repair the fences on the main and north grounds and clean up the tree islands.

➤ **HCARC Meeting**

April 30, 2024

6:30 Social; 7pm – 8:30 Meeting

Angeno's Pizza & Pasta

13588 80th Cir N.

Maple Grove, MN 55369

HCARC Board Meeting Minutes

- **Secretary Report** - The secretary's report from the last meeting was read and accepted as presented.
- **Treasurers Report** – John Buesgens provided the Treasurers Report. HCARC has \$12,087.99 in the checkbook. 3 CDs each with \$10,228.26. Note that we will have a \$7,000 liability for work deposits carry over to next year. John proposed we restructure our CDs when they come due in November. Write a \$5,000 & \$10,000 for 1 year, write a \$7,500 for 9 months (this covers work deposits) and leave ~ \$12,000 in the checkbook for operations. This approach would allow us to write a check for \$7,500 to BRG to purchase shares. A motion was made by Tom McMorrow to use this approach and second by Tom Newell. Motion carried. A check will be written to BRG to purchase \$7,500 worth of BRG shares. The total BRG shares purchased in 2023 is \$12,500. Shares are valued at \$1.00 each.
- **BRG Report** – John Buesgens provided an update on the grounds. All the work approved by the BRG Board was completed. This includes adding gravel to the roads in key locations, "dragging back" dirt

from around the ponds to make it easier to see dogs when they are swimming and fixing holes in the Q Field.

- The BRG Board had a special meeting to review our policy on renting the grounds to other retriever clubs. It was decided we would no longer rent the grounds to retrieve clubs for training days. The idea being if people want to train at BRG, they should consider joining MFTA or HCARC. If a retriever club other than MFTA, HCARC, or Gopher State wants to rent our grounds for an event, they will need to fill out a Grounds Rental Application. Proof of insurance is not required until the event is approved. The application needs to be sponsored by MFTA or HCARC. If HCARC or MFTA is in favor of renting out the grounds to an outside retriever club, they will forward the application to the BRG president and the BRG Board will consider the application. If approved by the BRG board, the club requesting use will need to complete the grounds rental application and provide proof of insurance. Grounds rental is \$500 per day per property (the Q Field is considered part of the Main Grounds). The rental rate includes use and cleaning of the portable toilets and disposal of event generated garbage. Birds used during the event must be disposed of offsite.
- Gopher State was approved to hold a full field trial at BRG on their normal weekend for 2024.
- Outhouse maintenance has been lacking and Mark Belford will work to find a different/better vendor for 2024.
- The board is considering a road project on the east end of the main grounds and possible improvements to the well at the main grounds.
- **FT Report** – Trial went well with revenue of \$16,700 and expenses of \$11,914 with a net profit of \$4,786.

- **HT Report** – The test went well. We had revenue of \$10,400 and expenses of \$7,247 with a net profit of \$3,153. We need an event chairman for 2024. Tom Newell will take this on if he is able to solve a scheduling conflict.
- **Old Business**
 - HT and FT Judges needed for 2024. Tom McMorrow and Tom Newell to handle HT judges. Chris Brandl to work with FT Judges committee to find judges.
 - Discussed possible application by Northern Flight to rent grounds for event. The discussion was brief and no decisions were made.
- **New Business**
 - Liability Insurance – John Buesgens presented a quote from Mouer-Foster. The proposed insurance is double all amounts of the existing insurance and costs \$369 less than our present insurer (Equiserve). John was instructed to proceed with changing insurance companies.
 - New Board Member – Sid Sondag has resigned his HCARC and BRG Board positions. The HCARC Board voted to seat Tom McMorrow on BRG Board.
 - Election of Officers and Board Members, all positions ran unopposed:
 - President – Chris Brandl
 - Vice President – Linda Twiss
 - Secretary/Treasurer – John Buesgens
 - 3 Year Board members – Mark Belford & Tom MCMorrow
 - 2 Year Board Members – Tom Newell & Brian Zard
 - 1 Year Board Members – Wayne Anderson & Dave Pichotta
 - New Life Member – John Buesgens proposed that Tom Lane be voted in as a Life Member to HCARC. Motion by John Buesgens second by Tom McMorrow. The board members voted “for”.

We will have a brief ceremony at the Spring Trial to celebrate Tom’s Lifetime Membership. We will also include Liz Jerome in the celebration. Liz was voted in as a Life Member in 2021.

Add to the Newsletter

With plans to have a regular newsletter posted to our website and we value your feedback. Please email your ideas, stories, pictures, corrections or if you have any suggestions or questions, feel free to reach out to us at hcArc.brg@gmail.com.

Send us member brags... Titled HT dogs, FT placements, etc, to include in our newsletter. This newsletter is by and for the members, so we need your help to make it interesting!

Thank you for being a part of our dog community!