

Master National Delegate's Report

October 22, 2017

The Master National is a week-long invitational Hunt Test. To qualify to attend, dogs must pass six Retriever Master Hunting tests during the qualifying period of August 1 to July 31 at member club events. Clubs become member clubs by paying dues to the Master National Retriever Club. NSDTRC(USA) is a member club.

This year the Master National was held in Palestine, TX. There were about 820 dogs entered. The dogs were separated into six flights, with about 137 dogs in each flight. The dogs ran six series, and a dog has to pass each series to continue to compete. Typically about 25-30% of dogs entered pass the Master National. Passing dogs receive a pewter plate, and earn two qualifying scores towards next year's event (so only have to obtain four qualifying scores at member club events). Once a dog has passed the Master National three times, it enters the Master National Hall of Fame, can add the suffix MNH to its name, and no longer has to qualify at weekend events in order to attend.

As the Master National has grown over the years, it has put a burden on the member clubs that hold weekend events. Competition is fierce to get into the tests (clubs may limit the entry to 60, 90 or 120 dogs because of availability of grounds, workers, etc.). In the area where I live, it is not uncommon for a 120 dog Master test to fill within 5-6 minutes of opening. Since it can be difficult to get into member club tests, I feel it is important for NSDTRC(USA) to continue to be a member of Master National, so that Tollers that receive a qualifying score at NSDTRC(USA) Hunt Tests that offer a Master stake can use the pass as one of their qualifying scores to attend the event.

This year there were 3 Tollers entered in the Master National and 2 competed. One Toller made it through the third series, and the other made it to the sixth series but did not pass the event overall. Most years there are 1-3 Tollers entered. The only Toller that has ever passed the Master National was Redrock's Straight Shooter MH, owned by Nancy White and handled by Alice Woodyard in 2010.

Each year there is a Delegate's meeting the day before the Master National begins. Each member club sends a Delegate to the meeting that can vote on club business on behalf of their member club. The judges for next year's event are selected at this meeting. This year there were two items that were voted on – one a bylaw change regarding dissolution of the club, should that ever happen, and the other item to allow a member club whose weekend event spans two qualifying years (Master tests are two days so could be July 31-August 1) to specify which of the qualifying years they wish the event to count for. Both changes passed.

The Master National location changes each year, rotating regions of the country. Next year's event will be in Oregon. The following year it will move back to the east coast. Because NSDTRC(USA) was incorporated in the state of Alabama, we fall in Region. As you can imagine, with over 800 dogs in six flights, the amount of property required to hold the event and house all of the handlers and accommodate all of the dogs is enormous. There are very few areas left in the country with sufficient grounds to host the event. In Wisconsin where I live, none of the clubs that hold regular weekend tests have enough property to host the event any more (it was last held in Wisconsin in 2004 at my home club, Wisconsin Amateur Field Trial Club in Horicon, WI where there were about 300 dogs entered).

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Dorscheid – NSDTRC(USA) Master National Delegate