

# The Central Minnesota Retriever Club

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## Founding Fathers

The history of the Central Minnesota Retriever Club (CMRC) begins in the mid to late 1940's. Three professional trainers from the St. Cloud area brought together like minded retriever enthusiasts to form an organization which has grown to become one of the most active retriever clubs in the Midwest. The three trainers were Louis Fritz, Tony Berger (Del-Tone Kennels) and "Mr. CMRC" Lawrence "Lorney" Martens. The club was officially incorporated with the State of Minnesota in 1948, although the club functioned at a more informal level in the years prior to filing paperwork with the state.

Lorney Martens was a Sauk Rapids native. He was drafted into the Army during WWII and became a dog trainer where he trained all breeds of dogs for both sentry duty and tracking. He was based in Nebraska during this time. At the end of WW II Lorney was discharged at the rank of Sergeant returned home to the St. Cloud area. He began training retrievers while also holding down other jobs including working at a local chicken hatchery. As Labrador Retrievers were not as common during those years in the Midwest, Lorney also trained Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and for a time even had some American Water Spaniels, now Wisconsin's State Dog. Lorney's experience in the Army training the military service dogs would greatly influence his training techniques and process. These was the days prior to the electronic collar, so trainers developed techniques to advance the dogs to higher levels of performance without the electronic collars of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As the first electronic collars became available, folks such as Rex Carr in California developed appropriate techniques for their use. Lorney never switched from his non-collar techniques as most everyone else around him did.



*Portrait of Lorney Martens  
Painted by CMRC Member Joe Evans*

Lorney also developed and produced his own line of dog food named "Marten's Rations" which he continued to produce and sell for much of his retriever career. Lorney also hired a number of youth from the Sauk Rapids area to serve as bird throwers and help in the kennels and dog food manufacturing process. Some of those youth have grown and matured into adults and are now members of CMRC and are active trainers and handlers.

Lorney Martens became known throughout the country and the retriever field trial community as a successful trainer and breeder of some of the finest Labrador Retrievers in the country. He was an influential player in the Post-WW II advancement and popularization of field trials. Lorney had a number of great dogs, most notably are FC Marten's Little Bullet who went 8 series in the 1957 National Retriever Championship, FC Marten's Mister Nifty who unfortunately had a short career as a producer, and Martens Stubby Giant. Lorney also bred and whelped the 1965 NFC Marten's Little Smoky. Smoky was owned by John Olin, a source of great pride for Lorney. Olin was a chemist and an executive in his father's Western Cartridge Company, which would acquire Winchester Repeating Arms Company and become Olin Industries. John Olin was the head of the Winchester Division of the company. Olin was a great philanthropist donating to a number of colleges and universities including one of the top veterinary schools in the world, Cornell University, of which he was alum. Olin not only owned champion Labrador retrievers like Smoky and King Buck, but also Kentucky Derby Champion Thoroughbreds and Nilo Farms/Kennels, a hunting preserve that is still in operation in Illinois

Lorney passed away in 2002 and was inducted into the National Retriever Hall of Fame in 2006.

Tony Berger also is credited as one of the founding fathers of CMRC. Tony was raised in St. Joseph, Minnesota. He too had other jobs beyond being a professional retriever trainer, but soon the majority of his time was dominated by Del-Tone Kennels. Tony allowed the club to run both licensed and informal trials on his property as well as use his facilities for club meetings and other events. Tony became one of the most successful professional trainers and handlers in the 1950s and 60s. Tony handled and trained FC-AFC Cork of Oakwood Lane to the 1954, 1956 and 1957 National Retriever Championship as well as winning in 1955. Cork was inducted in the Retriever Hall OF Fame in 1992. He returned to the National to win in both 1963 and 1966 with the dog NFC-AFC Del-Tone Colvin who Tony also handled to the 1964 Canadian National Championship. Del-Tone Colvin was inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame in 1993.



DEL-TONE KENNELS, Minn. — The most-decorated dog in "Cold Spring Country" is CORK of OAKWOOD LANE, an amazing Black Labrador who won the National Retriever Championship in 1955, qualified for the National Finals in 1954, 1956 and 1957, and is also Amateur Field Trial Champion and Canadian Field Trial Champion. Entered in two important regional trials this spring, CORK won them both and is the first dog in the state to qualify for the 1958 National Championship Trials to be held at St. Louis in November. Since a painting of him appears on a 1958 Brown & Bigelow calendar, CORK is probably the top pin-up in kennels from coast to coast. Proudly owned by Dr. A. H. Mark of Anoka, the famed CORK is trained and handled by A. R. "Tony" Berger, operator of DEL-TONE Kennels, with whom he is pictured.

*Tony Berger and 1955 NFC Cork of Oakwood Lane*

Tony had several sons, two of which remained on the Del-Tone property. Dick Berger ran the gun range operation at Del-Tone, attracting the Minnesota State Trap Shooting Championship for many years. Phil Berger would take over the retriever training portion of the Del-Tone “empire,” himself a fine trainer and mentor to some of our current retriever “royalty.” Tony Berger was inducted in the Retriever Hall of Fame in 1995.

Another notable character in the history of Central Minnesota field trials is Dr. Leslie M. Evans. “Doc” Evans is the owner of the first and only Golden Retriever Female to win the National Field Championship, 1942 Derby Champion and 1944 NFC Shelter Cove Beauty. Shelter Cove Beauty was bred by Vern Johnson in Battle Lake, Minnesota, a kennel that would remain in the business into the 1980’s. Doc Evans also bred and owned the 1950 NFC Beautywood Tamarack FDHF. Beautywood Kennels was the name of Doc Evans kennel. Later in his life Doc Evans would also own and handle Labrador retrievers.



*Charlie Morgan, Handler  
1944 NFC Shelter Cove Beauty  
Dr. L.M. Evans, Owner*

Lorney Marten, Tony Berger and other professionals were developing their training techniques, building the field trial circuit, fostering clubs, developing training grounds, and building their own businesses and clientele in these early years following WW II. But they couldn’t do it alone. One of the most important asset any professional, both then and now, is the financing. Some professionals in the early years had affluent and supportive clients that shared a vision and were willing to put forth the funds. Players such as John Olin (Winchester), Marshall Fields (Department Stores), The DuPonts (Chemicals and Paint), Averell Harriman and Auggie Belmont (Belmont Stakes) to name a few. While others took a more blue-collar middle-class approach and gathered a number of smaller players to support and finance their work. Both Lorney and Tony would rely heavily on the support of their clients and friends in the Greater St. Cloud area. These people included fellow retriever enthusiasts and clients as well as a number of wealthy and successful businessmen, many of whose businesses remain in our community to this day. Some of these businesses included local bars, restaurants, land and real estate development, and other industrial pursuits.

## The Grounds

The mission of the Central Minnesota Retriever Club has always been the training, trialing and testing of retriever breeds for both competition and hunting. To that end, the grounds have been developed and maintained throughout the years through the work of club members and on some occasions, hiring of outside contractors.

Lorney received some financing from a local bar owner and procured the initial 80 acres of what we now know as Marten's Meadows. When the original land was purchased there were no roads or ponds, just a track to get onto the grounds and a few swampy low spots. Lorney hired commercial excavators as well as fellow retriever field trialer Darrel Frisbie to dig and develop the water features we see today. The dikes, points and islands we see today were for the most part made from the spoils of digging these low lands and swamps into ponds and bodies of water.

The initial roads were "paved" with the tailings and spoils of the DeZurik Foundry in Sartell. One can still occasionally find a piece of slag or other remnants of the foundry industry working their way up to the surface.

The clubhouse on the CMRC grounds was built around 1972. Lorney and another club member Dick Heinz financed the construction project to the tune of \$7000. The club was able to pay that debt off in a few years. The garage door in the front of the clubhouse was a requirement of Lorney's. He wanted a place where he could park his tractor and thus the garage door. To the best of our knowledge, Lorney never did park his tractor in the clubhouse.

The 40 acres to the west that we now refer to as "Klick's" was owned by a neighbor, "Klicks" Leyk. Lorney had always wanted to buy that property and Klicks never really wanted to sell it to him, but they had agreed that if and when Klicks ever did sell, Lorney would have the right of first refusal. Lorney would precede Klicks in death, but Klicks would honor their agreement. When the time came for Klicks to liquidate his holdings, CMRC was offered the property.

The field we call "Joe and Tom's Field" was grubbed out of the brush and trees by club members Joe Evans and Tom Torvik. Joe and Tom spent many hours in that area falling trees and cutting brush and then a bulldozer was brought in to push the stumps out and the field was then worked and seeded to become usable training and trialing field.

Many of the mounds throughout the grounds from which we run from were created with funding from individual members. At the time of their creation, \$300 paid for the load of dirt to create the mound. Some of the mounds have earned themselves names either for the person who had the idea to place the mound there or for the person who paid the \$300 for the load of dirt to be dropped there. "Evan's Mound" on the north side of the West End Water and "Hoeffler's Mound" on the west side of "Klick's Field" are a couple of examples. Throughout the years a number of small projects have occurred. In the late 1990's "Heitzman's Points" were added to the large main pond and the "Poison Field" and "Puppy Field" were opened up further. In 2014 about 4 acres on the east side of "Klick's Field" was clear-cut and chipped to create a larger field with more options to run.

The mowing and maintaining of the fields has always been performed by a number of club members using club equipment. For many years IH McCormick tractors with brush mowers, sickle bar mowers and disc mowers have been used to mow the cover when it gets too tall to see dogs. Over the years the club has owned a B Farmall, two 300 Farmalls and a 350 Farmall Utility tractor, among others. In 2013 the club purchased a Kunz rough-cut mower and in 2014 a Polaris 4-wheeler to pull the mower. The addition of this newer, lighter weight and more easily handled equipment sped up the process of mowing significantly and also allows us to mow in places we weren't able to previously either because of the sheer size of the equipment or that the ground was too wet to support the heavier equipment.

For many years the grounds have been open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for club members to train their retrievers. Club members have enjoyed access to the club shed and clubhouse as well as often being able to use "training birds" kept in the club shed for training. Club members are required to keep the grounds

and facilities locked and secure and encouraged to pick up after themselves and assist in the maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

## Events

In the early years of CMRC the “informal or picnic trial” was one of the most popular events on the retriever trial calendar. A person could run an informal just about every weekend of the month if they chose to. Clubs in New Ulm, Rochester, Hugo, and Fargo held informal events on the weekends and the various club members from each club would travel to the other clubs for competition and comradery. Informal trials here at CMRC prior to Marten’s Meadows were held on property surrounding Pleasant Lake and the 400 Club supper club Southwest of St. Cloud. Grounds at and around Del-Tone Kennels also served for both informal and licensed events.

CMRC remains one of the few clubs in the region that continues to hold informal trials. The pressures of many more licensed events, the demand for judges and workers, and the lack of appropriate grounds and facilities are most likely to blame for the demise of the informal trial for many clubs. However, here at CMRC the informal trial remains a very strong part of our club. Informal trials are held on the third Sunday of the months December through April, depending on the weather. The stakes offered include Puppy, Derby, Hunter, Qualifying and Open. Awards are presented each month and club members compete for “High Point Dog of the Year” in each stake as well. High Point Awards are presented at the club annual banquet. Informal trials remain a tremendous way for our dogs to get work 12 months of the year, give our club an opportunity to gather monthly for a little friendly competition and comradery, and frankly add a sizable chunk to our club’s annual net profit. In 2015 and 2016 some informal trials had nearly 100 dog entries!

As one views the history of retriever field trials and hunt tests, one sees how the events have grown and evolved over the years. The first licensed AKC Field Trial to be hosted by the Central Minnesota Retriever Club was in June of 1949. Trials in the 50’s and 60’s looked significantly simpler compared to the events of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Not only have the tests at the trials become longer and more complex, the number of dogs entered has also grown, as well as the number of trials offered each year. As of 2016, CMRC hosts two licensed AKC Retriever Field Trials each year, one in the spring around Memorial Day weekend and the other later in the season, around the first weekend in August. Each trial has offered the Derby, Qualifying, Amateur All-Age and Open All-Age stakes. The total number of dogs entered in these trials range from around 170 to nearly 300 dogs.

When CMRC first began the hunt test program didn’t even exist, but through many years of informal trials, the gun dog stake/hunter stake has been offered. AKC Hunt tests began in 1985 and eventually would be run on the grounds of CMRC. The first mention of a hunt test being held by CMRC in Retriever Field Trial News if from an August of 1990 event with two Junior, single Senior and single Master flights being offered with a total of 94 dogs entered. Hunt tests, and those that trained for them and ran in them, have established a strong foothold in the club and have become active contributing members of the CMRC family. As of 2016, the CMRC Licensed AKC Retriever Hunt Test is hosted in early to mid-June and is a three day event offering two separate stakes of the Junior, Senior and Master stakes. It’s often known as a “Double-Double-Double.” The CMRC hunt test has grown to become one of the largest hunt test events in the upper Midwest and in 2016 attracted 346 entries, a record high entry for a single CMRC Licensed Event!.

These large and successful events at CMRC not only attract a large volume of dogs, but also some of the best dogs in the country in both the field trial venue and the hunt test venue. It is not uncommon to find at one of our field trials multiple National Field Champion Handler/Trainers and National Amateur Handler/Trainers and those National Champion dogs. Hall of Fame and Professional Handlers such as Mike Lardy, Danny Farmer, Dave Rorem, Chris Ledford, Steve Yozamp and Bill Eckett all have been guests and competitors on the CMRC grounds.

# Rip's Bingo Wins, Completes Championship And Gains Natl. Qualif. Central Minn. Ret. Club

JUNE 13 - 14 - 15

(Edited report of W. W. Holes,  
Trial Chairman)

It just had to happen! All through the spring trials Rip's Bingo had been showing outstanding performances only needing the glory of winning, but at all times showing the qualities that could not help but carry him on to greater heights. It was a popular win for this great dog and in becoming the 12th dog to qualify for the 1952 National he had taken two seconds and a fourth in Open All Age stakes; two seconds, and a third in Amateur All Age stakes before crashing through the inevitable winner's column which could not be denied him. Congratulations to Cliff and Dave Paper on the performance of this great dog.

Bigstone Bandit, usually a slow starter in the spring of the year, put forth an excellent performance under handler Billy Wunderlich as did King Buck under "Cotton" Pershall. Trevellyr Swift, another one of the top Goldens, showed excellently to take fourth. The three dogs gaining CM's did splendid work.

**Open All Age Tests—1st Test—water, combination triple mark and blind retrieve. First mark off point 70 yds. right; second mark 20 yds. left and third mark thrown into decoys. Upon completion of marked retrieve, dogs were sent on blind retrieve 75 yds. left and out 15 yds. on other side of neck of small bay. Performances in the first series were good. This test completed Friday afternoon's running and 36 were called back Saturday morning to 2nd Test—land, over and under mark retrieve. First bird 115 yds. out; short bird 35 yds. Many dogs had trouble with the long bird and required handling. 24 back to 3rd Test—land, combination of marks and blind retrieves. Long single pheasant with bird dropped in front of dogs on way in. Then a double blind retrieve thrown about 50 yds. out after dog had been sent for first**

# CENTRAL MINNESOTA RETRIEVER CLUB

AKC Licensed Hunting Test  
St. Cloud, Minnesota — June 16-17, 1990

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**MASTER: (20 Starters) Judges: Phil Berger and Mary Nelson**

**QUALIFYING SCORE:** YELLOWSTONE BELLE II, Lab., Curtis Nelson; E.J.'S SATCHMO OF WITHROW, Lab., T.H. Langford; DOC'S LOYAL SIDE KICK, Gold., Ralph Doubek; CARGO'S TWISTIN TZR, Lab., Harlan Hildebrandt; SUMAC'S, Lab., Robert and Peggy Butler

**SENIOR: (25 Starters) Judges: Chris Smith and Lonnie Gulsuig**

**QUALIFYING SCORE:** VALLEY-RIDGES MAVERICK, Lab., Stephen Boerboon; HIGHLANDS SASSY LASS, Lab., Jon Schmoeckel; WEST RIVER OUTLAW J.W. CLYDE, Lab., Jason Spitzer; MAGGIE OAKMERE, Lab., Harry Grant and Ted Langford; TERMINATOR OF RAPIDS, Lab., Ed Horsmann; NORDOM'S NORMANDY TEAL, Ches., John Nichols

**JUNIOR A: (20 Starters) Judges: Tim Landeker and Joan Kipping**

**QUALIFYING SCORE:** PEPPENMILLS ROYAL FLUSH, Lab., Howard Miller; TARABACCA, Lab., Steven and Jane Soutau; KODIAK ZAK OF HUNTERS COVE, Lab., Peter and Jennifer Shugren (Peter Shugren); KING TWO TALLY HO, Lab., Garrett Schloesser; SIR FREDRICK OF AMBER, Gold., Lyle Hoffman (Kathy Armajani); JOHNSON ROYAL DUKE II, Lab., Robbie Johnson (Ken Doty); CHAZ THOMAS, Lab., Mike and Sarah Gallagher; NICK'S RIVERSIDE SHADOW, Lab., Ken Doty; BEELINE BERT OF SHAKOPEE, Lab., Richard Hauge; CHIPPEWA'S ACE OF TOMA, Lab., Stanley Liszka, Jr.; MEADOWLAND'S CC ADDY PADDY, Lab., Corey Voth and Courtney Zawodny; BEN BLACK, Lab., Janice Feuling; BREEZER'S EMERALD ISLE, Lab., Andy Weeks; COLD HARBOR'S BAR PILOT, Ches., John Nichols; SANDY STREAM'S SUNDANCE SARA, Lab., Cathy Ulfers

**JUNIOR B: (29 Starters) Judges: Bruce Van Sloan and Bob Mochinski**

**QUALIFYING SCORE:** ROWDY TOO, Lab., Benny Cenac (Dennis Anderson); HICKORY-DICKORY ZACHARY, Gold., Andrea Johnson; WEST RIVER OUTLAW, Lab., William Spitzer; BUD'S BUDDY BRANDY, Lab., Curt Schreur; KATOC BLACK WALNUT ARGUS, Flat.C., Ann Decker and David Bunde; HORSMANN'S THUNDERIN JAKE, Lab., Scott Horsmann; BUELLBARON'S BIG FRANZ, Ches., Greg and Annette Buell; MELINDA'S LIL MISS MOLLY, Curt Schreur

## Members

CMRC has always been built for and by the amateur retriever enthusiast, but we have also grown a healthy and rewarding relationship with professional trainers and handlers. Not only are the professionals welcome on our grounds as competitors on the weekend of the trial, many professionals have become members of the club and train regularly on CMRC grounds. Rick Stawski, Danny Farmer, Steve Yozamp, Lynn Troy and Mark Patton are elite resident trainers and train weekly on CMRC grounds throughout the summers. The professional trainers are limited to one day per week to train on club grounds, limited to one pro per day, and must be finished training for the day no later than 5:00 pm to allow for the working amateur club members an opportunity to train. Much of the time, there is plenty of space on the club grounds to accommodate two or even three training groups, and often the pros will encourage a amateur club member to join in their set-up. Furthermore, these same trainers have graciously supported the club by not only providing workers at our licensed events, but also developed a unique resource to club members and the retriever community with "Pro Nights." Pro Nights are evening seminars conducted by the pros on their time for free as a service to our members. The pros charge the club nothing for their time and effort, they simply "pay it forward" to support the club and its members by giving their time and energy to help us all become better trainers and handlers. Furthermore, it is notable that Danny Farmer has on two occasions conducted two and three day seminars which have attracted handlers and observers from across the country to our club. These multiple day seminars by Danny Farmer have been held as separate special fundraisers for club projects.

As the history of CMRC continues to evolve, our club continues to be on the forefront, both the outstanding dogs but also being the home to leading individuals in the retriever community. A number of CMRC member owned and trained dogs have competed on the national stage at the National Championship, National Amateur Championship, Master National Retriever Club and North American Hunting Retriever Association Invitational. It would be difficult to name all of the club member dogs who have qualified and run at the Nationals, but here are some of the most notable dogs.

### **National Retriever Championship**

1944 NFC Shelter Cove Beauty, GRF, Owner Dr. L. M. Evans, 1942 Derby Champion  
1950 NFC Beautywood Tamarack FDHF, GRM, Owner Dr. L. M. Evans  
1955 NFC-AFC Cork of Oakwood Lane, BLM, Handler Tony Berger  
1963 and 1966 NFC, 1964 CNFC-AFC Del-Tone Colvin, BLM, Handler Tony Berger  
2012 NFC-AFC Seaside Pelican Pete, BLM, Owner Bob Zylla, Handler Steve Yozamp. 2010, 2011 Finalist.  
2013 NFC Trumarc's Dot Come, BLF, Handler Danny Farmer  
2014 Finalist FC-CFC-CAFC Jazztime Cut To The Chase, BLM, Owner Paul Hanson, Handler Steve Yozamp.

### **Master National Hall Of Fame**

Blackbird's Blu-Moon Shyne MH, MNH4, YLM, Owner/Handler John and Karen Blackbird  
Crazy Yosemite Sam MH, MNH, YLM, Owner/Handler Tom McMorrow



*2012 NFC-AFC Seaside Pelican Pete  
Handler/Trainer Steve Yozamp on left  
Owner/Handler Bob Zylla on right*

And the amateur owner/trainers within our club also serve the greater retriever community through their efforts associated with the National clubs and events. Perhaps most notably is 2008 President of the Master National Retriever Club John Blackbird. John is also a member of the inaugural board of directors of the Master Amateur Retriever Club founded in 2016. Additionally, CMRC has had two members serve as judges at the Master National, John Blackbird in 2006 and Tom McMorrow in 2015.

CMRC has traditionally been the host of the annual meeting of the Greater Minnesota Hunt Test Association since the organizations inception, the sight of the first two years of the GMHTA Minnesota Retriever Championships and the first two years of the GMHTA Youth Retriever Handling and Training Seminar. The club played host to the first national meeting of the American Water Spaniel Club around 1980. The club has also hosted the Minnesota State Open and Derby before the demise of those events. Inside the clubhouse you will find trophies and photos of the earliest years of field trial history and trophies going back to the 40's



and 50's. You will also find the portrait of "MR. CMRC" Lorney Martens and the Hall of Fame Induction scroll of Lorney Martens.

Beyond the vision of Tony Berger and Lawrence Martens, the Central Minnesota Retriever Club was built on the backs, loyalty and yeoman's work of amateurs. Men and women who were dedicated to the sport of retriever field trials and hunt tests. People loyal to the club who were eager to pitch in and help at each and every event, not afraid to get dirty, to admit they didn't know how exactly but were willing to learn, perhaps even making a few mistakes along the way. Among those who have come before us, here are some of the most notable "characters" in the CMRC story:

Artie Schaefer – joined the club in 1948, "Secret Shopper" buys most of the clubhouse supplies

Jimmy Stang – joined the club in 1963, Bird Steward, Maintains grounds

Joe Evans – club president, artist of Lorney Martens' portrait which hangs in clubhouse,  
Maintains grounds

Billy Salmonson – In charge of the "Welcome Wagon" and club bartender

Dick Heinz – DeZurik Foundry superintendent and early club president

Early Blocher – "Just a really good guy"

Roger Reopelle – Another professional trainer that sometimes trained on the property and helped Lorney develop some of the grounds.

Frank Klatt – St. Cloud Police Officer, Club treasurer, sometimes got into some "dust-ups" around the club but did a lot of work.

Bob and Peggy Butler – Bob was longtime field trial secretary

Herb and Bev Parker – Often times took the new guys under his wing.

Jim Metzler – St. Cloud Tech High School Teacher, Carpenter, club secretary/treasurer and built clubhouse.

Jerry Hoeffler – Another "really good guy."

Ralph and Teresa Doubek – Breeders, trainers and handlers of Golden Retrievers and Labs, owned/operated Golden Meadows Hunting Preserve near Cold Spring/Richmond, sometimes provided birds for trials.

### Legacy

When the old timers are asked what they would like to see the legacy of CMRC be, the first response is "Keep it like Lorney would have wanted it." What does that mean? Keep the club strong. Don't cut down all the trees. Keep the club a place where training and running retrievers is what we are all about. Lorney would not have minded the pros using the grounds. Back in the day, club events were as much social events as they were competitive. Although club events are not the same as they once were when entire families used to come out (no cell phones, no social networking, no cable/satellite television, and fewer organized activities for children in sports and the arts back in the day), club events remain everlasting.

Today, CMRC is stronger as ever. The membership roster grew by 40% from 2014 to 2015. Our informal trials, licensed hunt test and field trials, PRTA Member Pro-Nights, annual shot clinic, annual banquet, and more are enjoyed by the membership and make CMRC one of the premiere training and social retriever clubs in the country.

The Central Minnesota Retriever Club has stood the test of time for over 60 years. It was the vision of a handful of dedicated professional and amateur retriever trainers and handlers who built the club with sweat equity. The club remains today as a testament of our founders' foresight and the labor of literally hundreds of hands of club members. The club has always been, and hopefully forever remain, a haven for friends, colleagues and families to enjoy the competition, comradery, and social atmosphere of training, testing and competing with retrievers. CMRC is the living legacy of our founders that each and every club member has been entrusted with maintaining.