



## Master National Retriever Club

### Keith Winch-Director Region III

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Hello

Since you already know my name let me tell you a little about myself. I am a displaced Cajun from South Louisiana living and loving it in Parker, Colorado.

My wife, Kathy, is not a hunter, but over the last 20+ years has become accustomed to throwing dead birds and opening the freezer to unknown critters with a puzzling look of “is this for cooking or training?” I grew up a water-fowler with black labs trained to hunt to help make money for school.



When I say “trained to hunt,” it meant hollering and swinging arms like a maniac to get the dog to the area and let him do his thing. After the best hunting lab I ever had died in my arms in 1996 at the age of 13, I swore to never have another dog because I did not want to go

through that kind of pain again.

Two years later a dear friend gave me a Golden Retriever pup sired by his male. I did not want it, but once Kathy saw that little puff of fur there was no turning back. I set out to train him like I had done so many times before with my labs and quickly realized I was doing something wrong - there is a big difference between effective training methods for Labradors and Golden Retrievers. I researched and joined a retriever club and went to one of our local club’s hunt tests. I started running a few tests and became completely hooked. With a huge amount of support from our extended retriever family, we succeeded in our training efforts with HRCH UH Missiquash's Cajun Buckskin Jake MH WCX CGC. Jake sired several litters, and in 2008 I kept the pick of the litter - HRCH Big Horn Chasin' Holway's Gold MH MHR WCX CGC (“Chase”). Chase just passed his second Master National in Greensboro, AL.

Needless to say I have learned the difference between a hunter and a retriever. I truly love these dogs and I am always amazed by their capability with unconditional love for their partners and obsession to please. I am an active member and field representative for Mile Hi Golden Retriever Club. I am also a member of the Colorado Foothill Retriever Club, Central Rockies HRC, and Hidden Pine HRA.

I also judge AKC and HRC hunt test at all levels. It is an honor to serve as your Director for Region 3 and I look forward to meeting and hearing from you throughout the year and especially at Master National competition.

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