

## Mike Collson: Region 4— Washington



Like so many in in the HT game I began while trying to get a better hunting partner. My goal was to get a better retriever and I can honestly say mission accomplished. The greatest side benefit has been the friendships we've made along the way.

My wife Dee and I live in Ridgefield, WA with Too Terrible Tillie MH MNH (5), Island Acres Terribly Twisted Sister SH and the funniest Border terrier on the planet Cecie. We have two wonderful sons with the best daughter in laws that anyone could

hope to ask for. We also have the smartest two year old grandson and by the time we get to California we will another grandchild to share photos of.

I absolutely love our sport and have been lucky enough to be President of the Oregon Hunting Retriever Club in Portland OR. I am always humbled and amazed at the quality of the people who participate in our game and especially our club. Our sport is at a critical juncture at this time with unprecedented growth in entries and demand. We face a crimp on quality land and water access and coupled with an aging volunteer work force it has made our events that we all love much tougher to execute. Those that know me know I have a can do approach to every endeavor I take on and the Hunt Test game is no exception. As a community we all need to come together to become part of the solution or we will end up as part of the problem. Please don't miss any opportunities to volunteer at the Master National and your weekend club.

I have been fortunate to have a number of mentors over the years that helped teach me the nuances of the sport and I have a number of those ingrained in my judging philosophy:

- 1) Marking is of paramount importance!
- 2) Progress to the blind. It is a straight line to the blind and that is how it should be scored. Carry a line and keep them on that line.

Our sport while enriched by our dogs has always been about the people. We have a lot of outstanding people in our sport and I look forward to meeting more in CA. The Master National is part of the journey and not the destination, enjoy every second of it!

Good luck and Godspeed!