



## **Master National Retriever Club**

### **Patty Polish – Director Region IV**

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My name is Patty Polish. My husband, Michael, and I live in Dayton, Nevada. That's right its NeVADa not NeVAHda). I am very fortunate that my husband supports all my dog activities. I have always loved the outdoors. From the time I could walk, my father took me fishing on the Truckee River and at the age of 5 I was given my first puppy, a Labrador Retriever, who I named Midnight. In high school I was introduced to chukar hunting and I was enthralled by my friends' black lab. Upon graduating college and securing a job I bought a lab and a book, "Gun Dog", by Richard Wolters. I was on my way to creating new adventures.

The next year a National Championship was held in Genoa, Nevada. It is here where I saw a bunch of people in white coats with their dogs. And wow, it was amazing what these dogs were capable of doing. My boyfriend and I went to take a closer look and we met folks from the Sierra Nevada Retriever Club. I thought to myself what a great way to keep my dog active in the off season. This led to running monthly picnic trials, Derbys and a few Qualifyings. But then the Hunt Test program began, and since then I have had three Master Hunters one of which made it to the Master National in Carnation, Washington.

I love working with my dogs. They have an unconditional love like no other. They are always happy to see you and are hopeful that when you go out the back door that you will take them training, running an event, or hunting.

I am a 40 year member of and currently serve as the President of the Sierra Nevada Retriever Club. I am also a member of the Monterey Bay Retriever Club. I am the Pacific Representative on the AKC Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee. I think it is important to give back to the sport, either by volunteering to work or to judge as it takes a small army to put on a weekend event or a large army to put a National event on.

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