

The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWS BULLETIN of the WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA
EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

<http://www.gundogsupreme.org>

June 2009

Volume 84, Number 3

June 2009



A morning outing - pheasant hunting in SE Washington
Akay of Midnight Sun & Areka of Cherry Point
(Owned and photographed by Randy Mann)

Copyright © 2008 Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation. No part may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings to all! Inside you will find a very special article co-authored by Joan Bailey and Glenn Lehrer paying tribute to several individuals who've made significant contributions to the WPGCA over the years. Quite correctly, we owe our thanks to these amazing folks for the wonderful dogs we enjoy today! Also in this issue, Rick Sodja shares his thoughts on his first Utility experience. I hope his article encourages other first-time handlers interested in tackling this challenging, but rewarding endeavor. Lastly, Glenn Lehrer contributed a wonderful piece on the importance of cooperation in our hunting dogs.

For those of you anxiously awaiting news on the breeding situation, an update. Presently, there are 3 litters on the ground for a total of 13 puppies (8 males, 5 females). **Brigid of Willow Springs** (6 pups confirmed) and **Annie Oakley of Glacier Ridge** are both expecting June 6th. **Arthur's Pal of the Midnight Sun** does not appear to be pregnant, but would be due June 13th.

Anna C. Ziedins



The WPGCA family welcomes it's newest additions: **B litter of Cattail Storm** (Aiser of Dakota Prairie x Britta of Willow Springs). Whelped on May 25, 2009. Bred by Damon Bovard.

Photo by Damon Bovard

EDITORS

Rem DeJong
Greg Hurtig
John Pitlo
Anna Ziedins

SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

Printed bi-monthly, the GDS is included with a membership to the WPGCA. Subscriptions are \$40.00/year and due at the start of each year. Subscriptions and requests for back issues should be sent to:

Judy Coil
49625 Waldo Rd NE
Kelliher MN 56650
Ph (218) 647-8451
Jcoil@paulbunyan.net

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Send articles or proposals 2 months prior to the issues printing to:

Rem DeJong
809 West Kaye Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Ph: (906) 228-6475 (EST)
e-mail: Rem.DeJong@wpgca.org

Word document via email preferred.

PHOTO SUBMISSION

All photos should be sent to:

Mike and Kathi Rackouski
1806 E. Sixth St.
Ashland, WI 54806
Ph: 715-682-0383(CST)
Email: mracko@charter.net

Include the name of the dog and owner, and who took the photo. Digital photos are required; preferred size is 1024 x 768 pixels . If scanned use 300dpi (grayscale). You can email them or mail on a disk/CD.

WEBSITES

E&R Foundation:
www.gundogsupreme.org

Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club:
www.wpgca.org

OFFICERS

Gary Pool-President
John Pitlo-Vice President
Jim Seibel- Treasure
Judy Coil- Secretary

DIRECTORS at LARGE

Glenn Lehrer
Rick Molt
Ken Hurtig

Honorary Lifetime Members of WPGCA

**By Joan Bailey
Secretary WPGCA 1967-2001
Editor Gun Dog Supreme 1967-1992
Member of Breeding Committee from 1974-2002**

*At the annual WPGCA Board of Directors meeting in Jerome, Idaho, March 27, 2009, the board voted to make some club members honorary lifetime members. They asked me to write about our honorary members for the GDS.
I have never had such an enjoyable assignment!*

Introduction

Glenn Lehrer, one of our directors, spearheaded this project and he has a few words to say at the end.

ROY SPEECE

Roy became president in 1971, two years after NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association) was underway. He grew up in Nebraska during the days of market hunting. He remembered as a boy when he would get enough change together to go to the local store and buy one or two shells. He was expected to be a good shot and bring home a bird for the family. *He knew Nebraska pheasants and quail.* He knew that once that airborne pheasant was shot, his dog needed to get to it ASAP. He was not into field trialing at all. It took some convincing to get him to go along with NAVHDA, but after attending his first test in 1974, which was the first NAVHDA test in Iowa, Roy was won over when he realized this kind of testing would make our gun dogs better dogs. He understood that this was not a field trial.

It was in this context that Roy endorsed and believed in our Breeding Program and served on the first Breeding Committee for several years, as well as President for eight years, during one of the most critical parts of our Breeding Program. He supported and believed in having our own Registry. He said: "good dogs, you bet. But good dogs don't just happen. Good dogs come from dedicated people. People count too: Let's meet the challenge."

HAROLD BASKIN

Harold discovered Griffons almost as early as I; somewhere around 1966. From then on it was hard to stop him. He formed the Sierra Griffon Club and pushed for field trials. The club held two field trials; the first in 1968, the second one in 1969. Then the Sierra Griffon Club, under his leadership as president, hosted the first NAVHDA test in California in 1973. This was a major step for our breed, and for NAVHDA. That test was what made it possible for all of us to meet Joe Nadeker. If the Sierra Griffon Club had not happened, or NAVHDA; we probably would not have ever met Joe.



Rick Molt and others talk in the gallery during the NEGC Fall 2008 hunt test weekend.

Photo by Laurie Connell

Harold became our president in 1980 just as we held our first judges seminar, in Nebraska. Harold was our president at the historic board of directors meeting in California in 1983, as we decided to inject “new blood” into our Griffons.

DICK AUSTIN

In 1986 Dick became our president. He served for the next eight years with great distinction and during difficult times as we advanced our breeding program and got our dogs into the field tests. Dick became a judge and then a senior judge and did an excellent job in that capacity, as well as being a breeder, producing four litters for the program.

In 1988 a small group of us prepared to cross the ocean to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the original Griffon Club in Germany. As our president Dick made us all proud as he spent the days there with the German Club, being a guest judge, and then dancing the evenings away! He traveled for us a lot. He flew across the country for us, bringing dogs to be bred, or bringing new dogs to their owners. He never said no.

JOHN LUNDBERG

In 1989 John picked up the reins from Dick and we were off and running. A short time before this, John had bought ERIK OD JEZERAK, the first Cesky Fousek to arrive in the U.S. to be part of our breeding program. ERIK arrived late in 1985 and had hardly hit the ground before being used for the first breeding.

John spent great gobs of time taking ERIK to have his semen collected and saved for future use. We still have some of it which will be needed in the future. John also traveled a lot to our test sites, and was always there for our annual judges' seminars and board of director meetings. He led us with an impeccable ability to always find the right words for our endeavors. John stepped down in 1994, but remained on the board of directors for a few more years. He believed in our mission and did much to support it. He served with great distinction and his leadership was pivotal at crucial times for our program and history.

WARREN WEBSTER

Warren became President in 1994 when John Lundberg stepped down. He is one of our finest senior judges and still judges occasionally in California. He also spent a lot of money to bring over not one, but two female Fouseks to be used in the breeding program. He traveled all over the U.S. judging for us, and he was a great help in teaching the apprentice judges out in the field, helping them to learn about judging. He also served on the Breeding Committee for some years.

Warren and his wife, Helen, raised several litters for our program and we see his dogs' names today in many of our pedigrees, mostly coming down from BARTON DE LOS ALTOS. He also was with us on the historic trip to Germany in 1988, serving as a guest judge along with Dick Austin. In more recent years, Warren and his wife, Helen, have been extremely supportive of the annual test in California, as well as the one in Washington.

Two Special Senior Judges Become Honorary Lifetime Members of the WPGCA

JOE NADEKER

Never an officer in the club, by his choice, never an owner of a Griffon, but loved and respected for his depth of knowledge and understanding of the ins and outs of breeding dogs, not to mention great insight in judging the dogs in the field. Three important dogs in our breeding program might have slipped by and not been considered except for Joe's sensitive insight into seeing the true qualities of the dogs during their NAT or IHDT.

He was a mentor to every one of us; every person whoever apprenticed judged with him, and every fellow judge who worked beside him. Griffon owners owe more to Joe than to anyone else. Without him we would not have the wonderful dogs that we all enjoy today.

His position on the Breeding Committee for many years, from the beginning of our breeding program, was pivotal for our breed. He went deeply into the study of genetics and passed this knowledge on to the rest of us. He left the committee only when he retired from judging.

JACK DALLIMORE

Like Joe, Jack would never accept any office in our club. But he was one of the best senior judges I have every worked with. His breed had been German Wirehairs, but when the Czech Fouseks arrived in our breeding pool, Jack signed on and got a pup from one of the earliest breedings—BOSS OF THE CASADES, another dog that played a vital part in our Breeding Program.

Jack is a “gifted” dog person. He just knows what to do and when to do it, before the dog has even thought about doing something. This “gift” puts him just ahead of the dog and then the other part of Jack’s gift is that he knows exactly what to do or say at exactly the right moment, long after most of us would still be thinking about it. All of this made Jack one of the best judges ever, for he could see inside the dog deeper than most and thus know the true mark to give a dog. He also knew how to keep the rest of us on the correct path.

From Glenn Lehrer, director WPGCA:

JOAN BAILEY

Joan Bailey deserves a special place in the heart of all Griffon owners. As secretary for our club starting in 1967 and continuing through 2001, she served for 35 years also in the capacities of judge, Breeding Committee member, editor of the GDS, and organizer of new regional chapters. Additionally, Joan has authored three books which have defined the history, values, core beliefs, and training methods of our club. The titles of these books are *How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves*, 1992, *GRIFFON---Gun Dog Supreme*, 1996, and *How to Have the Best Trained Gun Dog*, 2009. During all these years, Joan was always the “glue” that held our club together and the “grease” that kept the wheels turning. Joan was always willing to take an extra “rock in her backpack” if no one else was willing.

* * *

These eight people have all given unselfishly of their time and resources in addition to contributing essential leadership skills at critical times in the history of our club. Their contributions have left a positive legacy of values and goals that we enjoy today.

To all these Honorary Lifetime Members, we who have benefited from your efforts owe our thanks. The quality of the Griffons that we hunt over today are the result of these special people and many others too numerous to name.

REFLECTIONS ON OUR FIRST UTILITY TEST

By Rick Sodja



Taking a break - **Ander of the Hundgaard** and handler Rick Sodja enjoy a brief respite during their UFT at the RMGC Spring 2008 hunt test weekend.

Photo by Tina Molt

Ander of the Hundgaard and I have now completed a Utility Test at the Rocky Mountain Chapter's Spring Test in Jerome, ID. It was the first time for both of us. The biggest surprise was how much fun the day was. Maybe it was the 62 degree weather, the sunny spring skies, or the myriad of waterfowl flying up and down the Snake River Valley. Maybe it was our good friends that were judging and watching. Whatever the reason, it was easy to relax, let the day roll by, and watch that **Ander** boy run.

Expectations Prior to Heading Southwest

There were four areas of the test where I had expectations of perfect scores: searching, heeling, tracking, and steady at the blind. First, **Ander** is a dog who is never underfoot when hunting. He typically ranges from 25-100 yards in open cover and 15-50 in heavy cover. Yet, for the first ten minutes of the test he stayed within 10-15 yards. I will never know why. Second, **Ander** heels like a pro nearly whenever and wherever I tell him to do so, be it driveway, fields, woods, cattails, university campus...except when we get to the test site! Again, I do not know why. Third, so far, he has never lost a bird

that I have shot that has gone down within a quarter mile, except for one gadwall that dove on a beaver pond. His tracking skills are almost legendary among my friends. He decided not to track the live pheasant at the test, however. One person suggested, that maybe I over-trained him for this and he was simply trying to put his own twist on finding the bird, deciding it was more challenging to do so via search mode. Who knows? It was clear that he winded the birds that the bird boy had in his bag and figured he had to check that out. But, he never found the urge to put his nose to the ground. He did find the bird though, and delivered it nicely to hand. Later, during the dead drag portion of the test, he tracked in outstanding fashion. Of course, that test is not really a tacking test, but a retrieving and temperament test. Last, the steady at the blind was interesting in its own right. I knew ahead of time that the rules say that the dog cannot “move around” once commanded to stay. I had interpreted that to mean that he could not move from the spot he was placed. I had trained him to start at “down” and then “sit” to better mark the fall at the shot. He was always rock steady, never moving (my definition!) until commanded to “fetch”. In conversing with the judges about how well I expected him to do in this part of the test, I found out that my approach was “not legal”. He had to stay at “down” or “whoa”, or whatever one chooses for a start position. I decided at the last minute to work him from a “whoa”, instead of a down for that reason. My mistake. I took the first shot, the judge shot and threw the bird, and I attempted to shoot again. But, I was not remembering that I had been given a pump gun and forgot to eject the spent shell and chamber the new one. So, I fumbled around for a moment. **And**er should have remained solid, but my incompetence threw him off and he broke on the third shot. In retrospect, I think he would have stayed had I put him on the down/sit. It takes a team, and I messed up. That boy does love to retrieve, especially off the water. Live and learn, hopefully.



Opposite:

Ander shows off his athletic ability during his search without a duck.

Left: **Ander** delivers a nice retrieve to hand for handler Rick Sodja during their steadiness at the blind.

*Photo by
Tina Molt*

Preparation in the Home Coulees and Marshes

One prepares for such tests for a long time, really over the life of the dog; but **Ander** and I got ready more definitively over a 2-3 month period. An unusually mild late winter in southwestern Montana where we live made things doable this year. The exception was an inability to trap pigeons at the local grain elevator. In most years, it might have been impossible. It seemed that grass and open water, however, could always be found, typically not an easy task in February. I think it was either Anna Ziedins or Tawna Skinner who had given me a great piece of advice prior to the test. One of them had observed, when either running Casey of Valley House or Braun of Marsh Stream in their UFT, that stamina matters. The Utility Test takes all day, sometimes even longer. The dogs get tired, lose their focus and can just zone out, particularly when they tend not to have their hunting stamina in place come April. I decided that much of **Ander's** preparation was going to focus on getting him into his fall hunting form. We went out a minimum of five days per week either training, or simply hiking, even if it was only exercising in deep snow on mountain trails...anything to work him hard physically. Several of **Ander's** buddies also helped get him into shape, including **Bessie of Hundgaard**, **Bijou of High Desert**, and **Aya of Dakota Prairie**. But, the real trainer of note was **Amos of Dakota Prairie**. **Ander** is competitive enough and always tries to keep up with **Amos**. The problem is that **Ander**, not being part antelope, just cannot do it. It was not uncommon for him to come up sore, even occasionally lame for a day, after trying to keep the pace set by that Giant of a Griff. It reminded me of trying to keep up skiing with my son; it whips you into shape. The other thing we did was repetitive retrieves in the mountain rivers around here whenever it was safe from an ice perspective. Swimming is always great exercise, and doubly so in those currents. All the conditioning work paid off. **Ander** was tired at the end of our test, but hardly exhausted and pretty much ready to find another bird. Lots of folks ask how much time it really takes to get ready for a utility test. I do not know if I know the answer to that. I am not sure

Nose to ground and focused! At least it's a very nice start for Rick and Ander during their track of the pheasant.

*Photo by
Tina Molt*



if I under or over-prepared **Ander** since we did not come close to prizing, but we worked 1-4 hour sessions 4-6 times a week for almost two months. We traveled regularly 30 miles West of home to lower elevations where we could train in grassy fields free of snow. That took a lot of gas! Not only is training for Utility a time commitment, but a financial one as well.

Reflections Back at the Truck and with Birds in the Vest

There seems to be a myth floating around that Utility is so darn difficult. Maybe it is, but I recommend thinking of it as a day of entertainment. **Ander** and I had so much fun at the test. I would recommend anybody try it. Come test day, you have done your work, so sit back, relax, and let the little doggie do their stuff. And, as I provide such advice, remember that **Ander** and I did not score very well! It does not seem like I have enough experience around Griffs to have developed any philosophical rights. Instead, I thought I would share a few things I have heard along the way towards running Utility. First off, do not try it generally before a dog is four years old, especially a male; but, obviously this varies from dog to dog and handler to handler. **Ander** was four. Another tidbit I learned is that all the training will change the relationship between you and the dog. Hmm...I guess it wasn't too much of an epiphany for me. The whole process—training, testing, and listening to comments afterward—did make me appreciate **Ander's** strengths and weaknesses. I probably trust him even more now when a bird is ready for the retrieve. However, the dozens of birds he has brought back to me over the years while hunting has done more to reinforce that trust than any test ever will. Third, there are numerous ways to train a dog to be steady to wing and shot. I never got there, really. Close, but no cigar. I suggest talking to a few experienced club members, especially those that may know your dog. For example, Glenn Lehrer suggested to me to get some live birds and simply plant them and work the dog on a rope (half-hitch around the belly) and try to keep the activity as close to a real hunting situation as you can. That sure seemed to get **Ander's** attention and we made more progress than I had

been making with other methods. His strong retrieving drive and experience on lots of wild birds, I think, made the pointing of pen raised birds that much more difficult.

After our test, I had asked Senior Judge Rick Molt for his observations, about how I might have prepared differently. "What I saw and have seen in the past at Utility Tests", Rick said as he reflected upon the day, "is that most of the teams needed to have more distractions during training. Handlers have told me that their dog did things such as "walk at heel" perfectly, but only to fall down when there were half a dozen judges walking along. Also, when training for "search without game" one needs to always have a bird there; and then, the only time you don't have a bird there is the day of the test. It is the only time you lie to your dog – but the dog will forgive you for this. For Utility, one is teaching the dog that has been seasoned on wild birds something different; you need to train with pen-raised birds in order to get the point and, subsequently, the steady to wing and shot happens with pen-raised birds at the test. I was very impressed with you and **Anders**, you make a fine hunting team and did a great job overall."

Looking back after all is said and done, I still wonder how we might have trained differently. Other than trying to afford more pen raised birds (chukars were eight dollars apiece), I am not sure. If I had access to pen-reared pheasants in February (which I could not find locally) rather than chukar, I might have been able to train to the test more effectively. **Anders** does well with commands, until he is in the presence of birds. Like most Griffs, his game drive is often overpowering. The question is learning how to channel that desire for game. I like Joan Bailey's new book, "How to Have the Best Trained Gun Dog", and her ideas on "drop" training. Using this more in the field might have helped. On the other hand, it seems to be a powerful command. One must walk a fine line between dominating the spirit out of a dog and enjoying his personality. I probably leaned too far in the latter direction. Having gone through one Utility, I agree with what some folks have told me that you really are training for the test, and not as much for hunting situations. However, like much of life, such things lie on a continuum, and I do think I will have a slightly better behaved dog in the field this fall. That is, if I don't forget to keep training to some degree. We are never completely finished, are we?

Friends Everywhere

Some things "take a village", and it sure is true about getting ready for any test, especially Utility. **Anders** and I wish to thank many folks for their encouragement, advice, use of their fields, and especially their time. Mike Reilly, owner of **Amos of Dakota Prairie**, is particularly noteworthy for the many, many days he spent helping us in the field. Others include: Dave Bowen, Jeff Kershner, Glenn and Lyla Lehrer, John Pitlo, Randy Ross, and Mike and Kanaco Vance. All these good friends gave unselfishly of their time and advice. I also cannot even begin to count all the folks who helped put the test on, including the judges, bird handlers, photographers, test chair, lunch crew, etc. Last, but far from least, I want to thank Mary Ann, who is always ready to keep **Anders** and I company in the fields and forests, help throw dummies, and be everything else the perfect companion can be. To everyone, "Nasdravia, my friends! Here's to a fine day of seven proud retrieves."

THE CASE FOR COOPERATION

By
Glenn H. Lehrer

I believe that the single most important component of a hunting dog's temperament or personality is COOPERATION. Without this component, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to expose and train the dog to become an invaluable hunting and family companion. I have come to this conclusion through a process of 44 years of dog handling experience, owning and training ten dogs of three different breeds, hunting over many additional breeds of hunting dogs, judging for the WPGCA for 16 years, and spending the equivalent of over five decades of my lifetime in the field hunting upland game and waterfowl throughout the United States and overseas. COOPERATION is bred into a dog as a predisposition just as pointing instinct is bred into a breed. It cannot be taught. Ed Bailey's article "Hello, Wired Dog-Goodbye Cooperation" in the June/July 1993 issue of GUN DOG magazine gives an excellent explanation of why gun dogs being bred today are not cooperative and thus hard to train and to have as a part of a family.

My first two dogs were an AKC Springer Spaniel followed by an AKC Brittany spaniel both with bench and field champion blood lines somewhere in the last four generations. Both were selected from newspaper advertisements and both were "hyper" and uncooperative dogs who could not even be taught to "come" using a variety of training methods. Both of these dogs had a desire for cow and horse contact, but not game bird contact. I suspect the root cause of the problem was too much "inbreeding." My next hunting dog was another Brittany bought from a breeder in North Dakota who hunted upland birds and waterfowl with his dogs. I hunted over this "started" one year old female and purchased her after seeing her point and retrieve game. Jenny and I learned a lot from one another as she did have some desire to "please me" and not just do her own thing whenever she wanted. However, she never became a good family dog. Following Jenny, who became an AKC Field Champion, I kept one of her puppies named Jamie of whom I was able to help turn into a decent hunting dog because, again, she had some desire to please me. However, Jamie was difficult to train as she had an independent streak. I knew I was on the right track with dogs and bred Jamie to an AKC Field Champion and kept one of the male puppies from the litter thinking I might finally get a good gun dog that would be cooperative and easy to train. Unfortunately, Bandit, as he was called, had a poor search, would not retrieve, was uncooperative, and difficult to train. During this time, in the early 1970's, I also hunted with a gentleman who paid \$2000 for an English Setter puppy out of champion field trial parents. In the field, the puppy would not even stay in the same county with us as his desire for game contact overcame his desire to cooperate with his handler. This gentleman subsequently invested a great deal of money in the puppy's development for professional training also without results. I knew something better was out there and the rest is history as I received my first WPGCA Griffon in 1989. I have had the pleasure of partnering with five cooperative gun dogs to date with **Bessie of the Hundgaard**, age three, being my present hunting companion.

The difference between the first five dogs I owned and the last five is in the breeding



From left to right: **Bonnie of Agassiz Lowlands** (deceased August 3, 2008), **Bessie of the Hundgaard**, Glenn Lehrer, **Blue of Agassiz Lowlands**, **Andor of the Hundgaard**, **Brook of the Hundgaard**. Photo taken in 2007 during a North Dakota pheasant hunt.

Photo by Rick Sodja

decisions our club is making to insure that a genetic predisposition for COOPERATION is present in all litters. COOPERATION is best described in Ed Bailey's article and also in our NAT, IHDT, and UFT booklets where it is described as the teamwork between the dog and handler where the dog is showing continuously a desire to please his handler by doing what the handler wants WITHOUT COMMANDS. Dog behavior is based on a dog's temperament. That temperament is based on a dog's attitude, cooperation, and obedience among other things. Without COOPERATION the dog will be too "hot wired" to be handled with positive reinforcement, too "hyper" to be a good family member, too "independent" for anyone other than professional trainers to handle, and too "mentally unstable" to be around other dogs and people. Why do you suppose electronic shock collars are the "training rage" today? Most hunting harnesses and jackets even have pockets designed to hold the "zap" guns used to activate the collars. Sometimes this NEGATIVE reinforcement works on dogs being "shocked" to submit to a command by their owners and sometimes it creates big problems and actually ruins any chance of training a dog to hunt. In any case, using a shock collar on a dog makes training more difficult and risky. A cooperative dog does NOT need a shock collar to be

trained and works best with POSITIVE reinforcement. Our GDS magazine has recently had some really great information on how POSITIVE reinforcement is the way to bring out the best in your dog.

One of the questions new handlers of our dogs ask most often at tests is about the difference between COOPERATION and OBEDIENCE as COOPERATION is judged in all three tests and OBEDIENCE is judged in IHDT and UFT. OBEDIENCE is basically the dog "saluting" the handler and following direct orders just like following an order a superior would give you in the military. An obedient dog is one that responds favorably to given commands through training. Too often today we see electronics used as the means to get that favorable response and "hacking" and "handling" become the environment during the hunting experience instead of the unspoken teamwork between the handler and the cooperative dog in the field. It has been my experience that a more cooperative dog is even easier to obedience train. Also, for me, the more cooperative the dog is in the field, the more pleasurable is my hunting experience. A cooperative dog responds much better to positive reinforcement thus does not require professional training, electronics, or lots of handling in the field. A cooperative dog can be given obedience commands and after time respond to please its master in a given situation cooperatively without command. Examples of this behavior which started out with exposure and obedience commands for my dogs include: not chasing deer or rabbits while in the field, not leaving our property without release, not bounding out of kennels and doors without release, backing another dog on point, shortening searching range when hunting with my wife, steady to wing and shot, and not getting on the furniture unless asked. Some more natural examples of COOPERATION in the field would include: holding point until handler flushes game, hunting generally in the direction the handler is moving, staying in contact with the handler, retrieving game to the handler, searching all available cover for the handler, not giving up in tracking a finding downed game, and working with other dogs in the field to efficiently search and not competitively retrieve downed game. All of these examples demonstrate an attitude of teamwork and a desire to please the handler in the given circumstance on the part of the dog. Unfortunately, I have witnessed competition in the field between uncooperative dogs with the resulting hacking by handlers too often creating a chaotic and unpleasant environment in which to enjoy the hunt. I have even witnessed a handler I was not hunting with shoot his dog. He did this in order to get the dog's attention after "hacking" and "shocking" the dog did not work.

Without COOPERATION bred into your dog, you have your work cut out for you. In my opinion your chances are not as good in getting a cooperative hunting dog from field trial genetics or AKC championship genetics as I and many of my hunting partners over the years have found out. The key is breeding for COOPERATION and this is not often considered in field trial and AKC breeding. Your gun dog's performance at home as a good family member and performance in the field as a cooperative and productive partner are what we as a club are all about. Our breeding program has long recognized that COOPERATION is the key ingredient to making this happen. Without COOPERATION, the remaining necessary characteristics of a good gun dog-desire for game, search, pointing, tracking, ECT. - cannot be harnessed and used productively.

2009 Puppy Pictures!!!



Top: Anita Andrus and Tawna Skinner's **C litter of Salmon River** (Aiser of Dakota Prairie x Braun of Marsh Stream). Whelped April 20, 2009.

Bottom: Steve Rossow's son Remington holds both pups from **B litter of Dakota Prairie** (Blue Mountain Brew x Brooke of Bogan's Point). Whelped April 30, 2009. *Photo by Steve Rossow*



Upcoming Events

KDK Chapter

TBA

Silke Alberts

901 Alameda Street

Vallejo, CA 94590

Ph: (707) 644-8068

dcwire@webtv.net

NW Chapter

TBA

Dennis Carlson

3801 Barrett Drive

Hood River, OR 97031

Ph: (541) 386-4830

Carlson@gorge.net

Rocky Mountain

TBA

JJ and Theresa Conner

472 Lower Deep Creek Rd.

Townsend, MT 59644

Ph: (406) 202-3369

Heartland

TBA

Jim & Donna Crouse

6221 Moore Road

Delaware, OH 43015

Ph: (740) 881-3041

jcrouse01@yahoo.com

NE Chapter

TBA

Erik Anderson

354 Beech Hill Road

Andover, NH 03216

Ph: (603) 735-5827

anderson11@tds.net



Above left: Allegiance "Corbett" of Sour-dough Trail retrieving a goose.

Photo by Jane Webb

Above: Alberta goose hunt, 2008. Jane Webb, Binti of Cloudy Skies, John Woodcock and "Corbett".

Photographer unknown

Left: Celebrating his first wood duck! Robert Ziedins & Casey of Valley House.

Photo by Anna Ziedins

Below left: Tawna Skinner, Binti of Cloudy Skies and Jane Webb pose with their Montana pheasant. *Photo by Anita Andrus*

Below: Bartos of Marsh Stream retrieving a rooster for the Boss on a cold December day. *Photo by Jon Coil*

