

The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWS BULLETIN of
ČESKÝ FOUSEK NORTH AMERICA
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

It's great to be closing the door on 2020 and gearing up for a new year. My own hunting season ended where it began with a South Dakota prairie grouse hunt back in September. Along with a few grouse, I brought home a COVID-19 infection that hospitalized my spouse. Then my dog Burley died.

But while it's been a low point for me personally, it's been exciting to see the promise of new pups having their first points and retrieves for new owners. If you haven't done so, check out the postings on our various Facebook pages (listed at the end of this issue) from proud owners who have been able to get afield. And if you've been hunting with your new pup, please consider sharing your experience. Your success is what inspires breeders to put in the work with another litter and club members to devote time and energy to the club.

This issue begins with an article on NAVHDA testing. I hope Anna's article inspires more of you to participate. It's no replacement for our testing program. What it does is expose the dog public to our great breed. We introduce a new author, Laura Chichester, who documents a new role for our dogs—a veteran service dog. Enjoy the issue.

Rem DeJong,

Editor

On the Cover:

Steady at the blind takes plenty of training. Good job Anna and Aiden! They earned a Prize I in NAVHDA utility test

(Photo by Phil Welty)

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Or visit our web page at
https://ceskyfousekna.org**

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Email: dejongrem@gmail.com for photo submission instructions. Include the name of the dog and owner, and photographer. Digital photos are required; use large file size settings. If scanned use 300dpi (grayscale). You can email them or request instructions for uploading to website.

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Utility Testing with NAVHDA :

Why having a steady dog makes a difference

by

Anna Artz



Ax z Ceske Jahodnice (call name “Aiden”)

Aiden making a fine duck retrieve oh his way to a Prize I in a NAVHDA test. Test Participation is a great way to show off our dogs.

(Photo by Phil Welty)

A few months ago, our family traveled to Corning, California to participate in a fall Utility Test put on by our local NAVHDA chapter in Northern California. NAVHDA stands for North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association. It's a non-profit organization that's dedicated to fostering, improving, promoting and protecting the versatile hunting dog. It is a separate entity from AKC. The NAVHDA Utility Test is a demanding one, and similar to our club's Utility test. It covers all manner of hunting activities from searching for game (in field and in water) to tracking, steadiness and retrieving. In essence, it's the ultimate evaluation of dog and handler as a cooperative team. It's also a beastly long day, asking for mental focus and physical exertion for prolonged periods of time.

Our male Czech import Ax z Ceske Jahodnice (call name “Aiden”) was close to 3 years old at the time and in the best shape of his life. We had been training hard all summer, working towards realizing our dream of having a fully trained hunting dog in the family. We hoped Aiden could be steady for BOTH waterfowl and upland bird hunting. This NAVHDA Utility event was going to be our litmus test of how our training was going. Before I get to how our test actually went, let me digress for a moment and explain WHY we wanted a steady dog for hunting. It’s a question that comes up a lot. Why go through all the effort to steady your dog? It’s a fair question. For me, it boiled down to 3 things. Those 3 things were -> safety, energy conservation, and some would argue this point also, a conservation thing (e.g. more efficient recovery of wounded game). But I will not lie, I also enjoy working with our dogs. So does my husband. To us, it’s just plain fun.

My husband Ryan grew up duck hunting in the Delta region of Northern California. He is a passionate waterfowler and having a steady dog in the rice blind was very important to him. Not only does it add to the enjoyment of the duck hunt, it also adds a measure of safety and success to the hunt. Nobody wants a duck dog that jumps up at the sound of gunfire and potentially create a dangerous situation by jumping in front of the gun. It has happened to Ryan more than once and it’s scary. Ryan didn’t want that. We wanted our next puppy to remain calm and quiet during the sequence of calling ducks, gunfire and birds falling into the water. That’s a lot to ask of a young dog when they have huge hunting desire!

To condition him for steadiness, our latest CFNA puppy Aiden was “clicker-trained” to go to his “place” in the house (either a spot of carpet or his kennel or his dog blind) starting at 10 weeks old. This “place” command was a fun game for him as a puppy, helped us bond with him, but also produced lasting results. By the time Aiden was 6 months old, we could send him to his “place” almost anywhere. We just kept changing the situation – either a new place, or new distractions or both – and our puppy knew what to do. His “place” command was solid because we had generalized his training to encompass all circumstances. Ryan could now send our dog down the rice check 10-15 yards to his “place” where Aiden was comfortable and waited patiently in his dog blind for birds to work the decoys. We also realized that hunting him remotely had the added advantages of protecting his hearing and giving him a better vantage point from where to mark fallen birds. For dove hunting, similarly, we could put him on his “place” under a shaded oak tree where he would stay cooler and watch for falling birds.

As we came to find out, training Aiden to be “steady” for duck hunting (remaining calm and quiet in his “place”) crossed over beautifully into his field work. As I explained earlier, duck hunting is my husband’s love. But chasing upland birds through fields, woods and up/down mountains is my passion and I had always dreamed of having a fully steady bird dog. My first 2 club dogs were not steady. Not even close. They always chased after flushed coveys and sometimes I had to pull up and not take a shot b/c the dog was in the way. That was our “normal”. I didn’t know any other way. The dogs would always come back with tongues hanging and panting hard after sprinting futilely after flushing birds. I wished I could change that, but didn’t know how. Looking back now, I realize I made the critical mistake of waiting to start steadiness training too late for my pre-

Right: Aiden gets a well deserved water break from Anna Artz during their NAVHDA Utility Test.

(Photo by Phil Welty)



vious 2 dogs. In essence I had to “break” them of this habit, and it was always a struggle. If you start young and stay consistent with your message (no shooting of chased birds and remaining calm in the presence of gunfire and thrown objects/flushed objects) steadiness training is much easier. Pup will grasp the concept quickly that success comes when you “wait”.



Retrieving to hand Aiden completes a retrieve during the field work portion of the test. (Phil Welty photo)

To help us on our journey with Aiden, we enlisted the help and guidance of a wonderful friend and dog trainer that believed in building cooperation early and showing pup how to be successful by “waiting”. He showed us “what” to do and “when” to do it, by using a check cord first, and then later transitioning to an e-collar. My job was to adhere to these principles whether training Aiden or hunting him on wild birds. I marveled at how quickly Aiden understood what we wanted when we were consistent with our rules. If he pointed and broke away to chase, I did not shoot. It was black and white. I let a lot of birds go, b/c pup was constantly breaking and chasing. That was pretty much our first hunting season. It was hard to be patient. We did not harvest many birds his first year, but I firmly believed in the message and the message was simple. Wait for me. If you wait for me, we will be successful. If you wait for me, I will kill something for you. I was trying to build a partnership with my dog that could only come from understanding his part of the job, and trusting that I would do mine.

During Aiden’s second hunting season, he began to trust his nose and his confidence in tracking down quail covies grew. It was fun to watch this maturation. He also grasped

the concept that he needed me to be successful. When he held tight and did not break, I killed birds for him. He started to realize we were a team and it was more fun to wait for me. This really helped break him of chasing and he started holding his points longer. If he pointed and waited for me, I shot the bird for him. And he liked that! A lot! But I also started doing something else during his second hunting season. I had learned from the trainer that it's important to mix things up a bit, to change the sequence of events so as to keep the dog guessing. This was crucial in his final stage of steadiness training.

In the dog's mind the hunting or training sequence ALWAYS goes like this -> dog finds the bird, points it, handler walks in, bird flushes, handler shoots, dog is sent for the retrieve. Our friend taught us to mix this sequence up at every possible opportunity. For example, during one training lesson, after Aiden established point and we were walking up to flush the bird, my friend fired off his gun twice. I jumped about 10 feet in the air and so did my dog. Neither of us expected him to shoot early before the birds flushed. It startled both of us. This was one example of "mixing things up". The early shots made Aiden break. He made a mistake because something unexpected happened. We corrected him and gave him another opportunity. This time, when the gun went off prematurely, the dog was steady. Our trainer had just shown us why doing the unexpected is a key component to conditioning the dog to be steady. I never forgot that lesson.

Throughout Aiden's second hunting season, my friend counseled me not to send the dog for every retrieve, even if he did everything perfect. The flush of the covey is reward enough he said. So, half the time I would pick up the bird, and the other half, Aiden got to retrieve it. I always made him wait to see if I was going to let him retrieve the shot bird or not. Because he did not expect to retrieve the bird, he began to relax and became more steady. We were also mixing up the "how" and "when" of his retrieving. Sometimes when Aiden was 100% steady, I would praise him for a job well done, then heel him off point about 10 yards, then turn him back around to face the original direction of the shot bird, and send him for the retrieve. Other times, after successfully shooting a bird, I would make him wait, I would go pick up the bird myself, drop it half way back where he could see it, then go to him to release him from the retrieve. This way, I kept him guessing. When the dog is unsure what is going to happen next, he tends to stay steady. Worked like a charm. I continue to adhere to these principles to this day.

When our second hunting season came to a close and summer training concluded, it was time to run Aiden in his Utility Test with NAVHDA. I knew he was ready. All of our work, both during training and actual hunting, had translated into a happy and confident gundog. He knew his job well and loved it. He also trusted me completely. He knew I would tell him clearly when it was time to search, track or retrieve something, or wait his turn. The end result was a fantastic showing for us during his Utility Test where we earned a solid Prize 1 and 200 points (out of a total possible 204 points). For those of you who have never witnessed a Utility Test, I encourage you to watch one. It's a fun spectacle of dog and handler partnering together to get a series of specific tasks accomplished. The unspoken bond and invisible thread connecting dog and handler is wonderful to watch. For those of you who have never entertained the thought of training your dog to complete steadiness, I hope this article gives you pause and you might consider it. Be open to the possibility. Many of our club members and current judges have run their dogs through Utility Level work.



Ready for Action:

Tilley shows off her working uniform as a U.S. Army Veteran Service Dog
(all photos by the author: Laura Chichester)

Cesky Fousek as Service Dog

by
Laura Chichester



One year ago, in August 2019, **A Tiller's Mate of Payette River**, "Tilley", came into my life. I am very grateful to Michael Kenneally and Laurie Connell for introducing me to this fabulous breed. As a 100% service-connected disabled veteran, I am medically prescribed a service animal. A NAVHDA junior hunt qualified German Short-haired Pointer had been my service dog for six wonderful years. After losing him in November 2018, the search for a replacement was on. Veteran support organizations were overwhelmed with requests for service dogs due to the influx of veterans returning from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The system for matching service

dogs to veterans was backlogged, and I was expected to wait over a year for a replacement.

A private organization worked with me to find a rescue dog and train it for duty. Tilley was to be the service dog companion and running mate in the field. Both dogs went to the same training and both successfully learned obedience and my assistance requirements. In time however, I noticed Tilley was doing better in helping with daily living and navigating the world as a person with PTSD and at times intense anxiety. Tilley was selected for me by Roger and Nancy Fuhman due to her demeanor, wonderful disposition and cautious nature. The Fuhmans made an outstanding choice. Through experience with both dogs, I quickly realized Tilley was performing the duties of service animal habitually better than the other dog. I recently rehomed the Weizsla and Tilley is now my service animal.

Tilley is a complete joy and quickly learned her tasks for supporting me. She quite literally goes everywhere with me, and I couldn't be happier. Trips to the local restaurant one block away and the dreaded trips to grocery store are much easier with her in tow. Although being a young dog, she is very obedient and consistently wants to please. When we are out and about, her presence draws attention. Rarely, if ever, do people know what breed she is, and I'm very proud to share all I know about Cesky Fouseks.

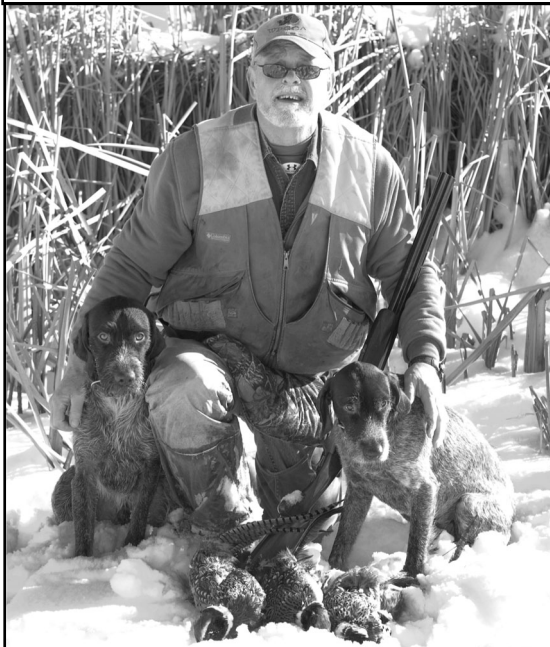
Besides being fantastic versatile upland hunting dogs I'm here to happily report that Cesky Fousek's can learn and perform many tasks in support of disabled veterans. Now that I live in Norfolk, Virginia, I hope to expose Tilley to the field and continue to put her on birds. Her initial introduction to the field was in Maine last September and I look forward to many joyful years with this wonderful and gifted dog.



Tilley Takes a Break

Even a service dog needs a little R&R.

Editors Note: The Crouse family said goodbye to two dogs this year—Beau and Bennie. There's a special place in my heart for Beau. Susan and I traveled from northern Michigan to Louisiana to rescue Beau. A home with the Crouse family was the happiest of endings a dog could have.



**Beaudashus of Wil-
low Springs
(2/9/2005-8/10/2020)
by
Jim Crouse**

Beau came into our life at 2 years and 3 months after failing to win the heart of his previous owner. The knock-on Beau was he wouldn't point and has seizures.

We had him checked and the seizures were a non-issue, and his pointing ability was evident from day one.

Beau was not accustomed to staying indoors, so we had a couple accidents during his early days in his



Bird Dogs (above) Honing their couching skills (below)

Bennie (left) doing his best to teach Beau (right) how to use a couch. For an outdoor dog, Beau proved to be a very willing student.

(photos by Rem DeJong)

new home, but he learned quickly. He quickly got the hang of being an indoor dog. We have a dog couch and a human couch, and at first Beau wouldn't get on either. However, it didn't take much convincing before he decided that being a couch potato was a pretty good life.



Tough hunting couch potato

On a pheasant hunt in South Dakota, Beau tore open his chest on barbed wire. Keeping Beau out of the field was not something he would accept, so to protect his sutures, he's wearing a modified sweat shirt under a chest protector vest. It only took about 100 yards for him to tear it all off, so it was back to the crate.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

Beau was everything you could ask for in a hunting dog and faithful companion. He was 50lb dog with 90% of that heart. He didn't know when to quit.

He had back surgery when he was 6 years old and the surgeon recommended that Beau retire to the couch full time. Beau didn't agree and we hunted together for 7 more years before his hearing and eyesight deteriorated enough that it wasn't safe.

I have many stories to tell about Beau some funny some serious but perhaps my favorite was the time in Iowa when he made the ultimate retrieve. We were hunting with Rob Reed and waited a blizzard. The day after, I got a call that there were birds out looking

for food. Rob and I couldn't resist so we started out and kept falling through the snow drifts, Rob finally gave up and went back to the house. Beau and I kept going and flushed a rooster that flew back behind us. We followed and Beau pointed, I flushed and shot (yes, I do hit one now and then) the rooster and it fell into the creek bottom. There was a tight fence between us, so I lifted Beau up and away he went into the creek, but he came back up without the rooster, then he went back so I climbed over the fence and got to the creek and Beau pushed his head through the ice and came out with the rooster! And that was Beau trying to please.

He was one great dog that started out on the wrong foot but sure righted himself very quickly. He left a huge hole in our hearts, but we are blessed to have been able to spend 13+ years enjoying his hunting abilities and his devotion to our family.

Please remember to pay your dues.

It's easy. Do it on-line at:

<https://ceskyfousekna.org/join-renew/>

You can pay both national and chapter dues.

Thank you

Warren Webster

July 7, 1930 - August 24, 2020

by Joan Bailey

It is hard, very hard for me to write this. Warren had been sick with cancer for too long. But my dear friend finally passed on August 24". What a guy! What a guy!

All these many years, untold number of times when I would call him. Helen often answered. I'd say "This is Joan." And she always said, "I'll get your friend for you."

They have six children and 10 grandchildren. And I can't remember how many Griffons. I do remember that Warren was one of our dedicated members who bought one of the first Fouseks, AXA. I believe she came over with ERIC. Sadly, she died early on and we never got to breed her. I wanted to mention her because she demonstrates one of the many ways Warren, and Helen, helped our club. At the many tests in California, Helen was always busy helping with the lunch. Whenever they went to a test Helen was always giving a hand.

And then there was Warren. How did he ever get involved with GrifTons??? Well, his daughter worked with Dick Austin and one day Dick talked this young girl into taking home a puppy for her father.

So that is how Warren got hooked on Griflons, and their owners. He was an experienced hunter and now he had a Griffon. He took his dog through all the tests and did just fine. It didn't take long for us to see his talents, his understanding of dogs, and of their owners. So we encouraged him to apprentice judge. He was a natural, and especially good in working with someone with a new dog. So he became a judge, and a really good one. His kindness showed through and made the handler feel good.

During those years, when a bunch of judges went to the Heartland test, some of us always got lost trying to find the restaurant. One of the last years that I was there, on Saturday evening we judges (Warren, Jack Dallimore, Joe Nadeker, Joan) piled into a car and then we got lost. By now it was dark. Joe asked Warren to stop the car. Joe got out, looked around and pointed up to the sky. In his heavy accent he came back and said in his heavy Czech and German accent, "There is the North star so we will go in that direction." Warren headed that way and eventually we got to the restaurant.

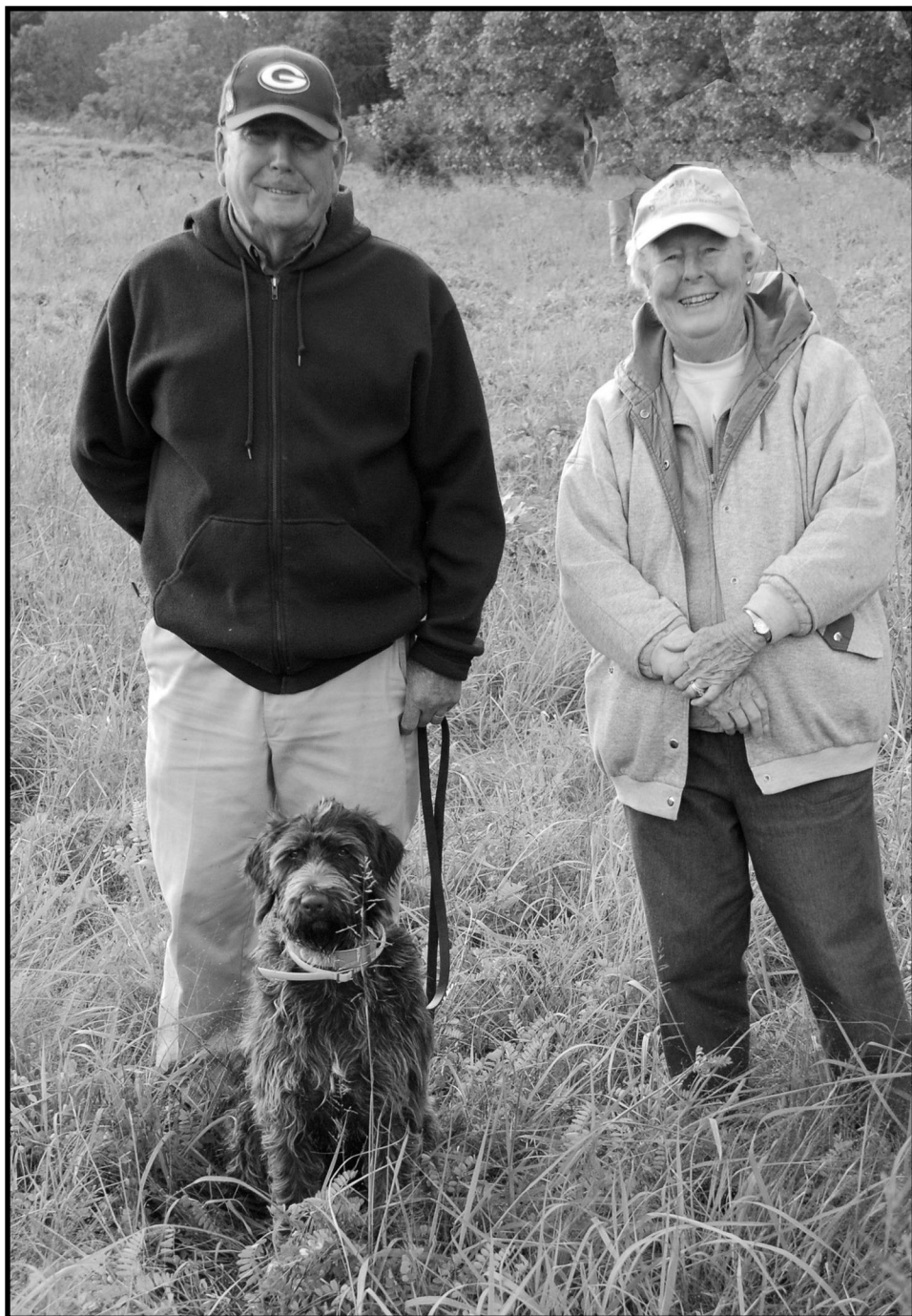
He was a good judge: and had a deep understanding of why we were testing. He understood the importance of the Intermediate test.

He served as president of the Griffon Club for a good many years, kept on judging: kept on helping those who were just starting out. I miss my dear friend.....

Opposite:

Warren and Helen Webster paid a visit to a 2008 Heartland Chapter Test near Baraboo, WI.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)



Breeding Committee Update December 2020 from Laurie Connell

COVID 19 has wreaked havoc on all of our lives and has not left the 2021 breeding plans untouched. Several owners of females have elected to remain in place because of COVID concerns so they will not be bred until 2022 or very late 2021.

We currently have 17 people who have submitted deposits.

We are planning to breed only three females for the 2021 season and have tentative plans for their mates, depending upon when things transpire.

You can see the list of qualified dogs on our club website at <https://ceskyfousekna.org/breeding-stock/>

The females we plan to breed are:

Asta z Jamajky	Owner Sue Kaufmann. Connecticut
Cider of Nichol's Creek	Owner Todd Walrod. Iowa
Borka od Chlumínské kamizolky	Owner Stan Morse. Idaho

Notes from the Treasurer's Desk—Roger Fuhrman November 28, 2020

Miyauchi Fire Fund

The response to the CFNA's fund raiser for Greg Miyauchi whose home was consumed by one of Colorado's wildfires has been \$4,500 in donations. Greg was not aware the CFNA was hosting this fund raiser and was very pleased to receive the first check at the end of October. I did receive information, that for those who send checks, the address for the CFNA Treasurer is difficult to find. It is Roger Fuhrman, CFNA Treasurer, 29 Rocky Road, Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629.

Puppy Deposits

This is the first year the CFNA is requiring Puppy Deposits as part of the process of purchasing a puppy. We have deposits on 14 puppies. I understand the CFNA Breeding Committee is in the final stages of determining the number of breedings for 2021, so if members are interested in a new puppy next year, they need to contact Thomas Wyse very soon.

Northwest Chapter Spring Test

The Board of Directors authorized the CFNA Treasurer to help fund the Northwest Chapter's first spring test in many years. A \$1,500 check was sent to help cover expenses.

Gun Dog Supreme Changes

by
Rem DeJong



Spiro and Darwin

Darwin Wallace of Valley House keeps a close eye on his South Dakota rooster. “You can hold it, Spiro, but it’s my bird!”

(photo by Rem DeJong)

This issue is supposed to be my last as GDS editor. Effective 2021, Spiro Mavroidis will be taking control of the GDS mouse pointer. Spiro is a fairly new member of Cesky Fousek North America, hanging his hat in northeastern Ohio, where he is the owner of Darwin Wallace of Valley House. We’ve hunted a bit together and participated in Heartland training days. I’m glad to see a fresh face take on this task, and I hope that his stepping up to do the job serves as an inspiration to other club members to volunteer for club roles, whether it be serving as a judge, managing a Facebook page, helping put on tests, being a photographer or serving as a chapter officer. Spiro won’t be alone; Rick Sojda and Brook Merrow will be assisting with editing tasks. John Pitlo still works with organizing the test statistics.

The GDS publication schedule is also changing in 2021. We plan to publish four issues a year instead of the current six. This change will ease the job

of editing the GDS and also permit looking at some changes in format. So stay tuned.

Although I don’t plan on being an editor anymore, I suspect that stepping away from the job is a bit like getting a divorce when there are children involved—it’s hard to get away completely, even if you want to. Fortunately, this is an amicable split, so working with the new editorial team should prove fun. As the keeper of about ten years of computer files, organized like a compost pile, it will take a bit to make the transition complete and to help the new guys find stuff.

I began contributing to the GDS in 2004 with a cover photo. (The GDS is always in need of good photos, so please send us yours.) However, our first club dog, Ruffel of Ashview had arrived way back in 1973. She was a great hunter and family dog with our two young boys. She was followed by Axel of Whitewater—one of the early Griffon Fousek outcrosses. Axel was a lovely family dog but a complete bust as a hunter. At his Natural Ability Test, Joan Bailey offered to take him back and refund my money. But Axel had been part of the family for almost a year. I didn’t say it, but I thought, “Look Joan, if your kid is a “C” student, you don’t just put him up for adoption.” No way would the kids part with Axel. So I spent the next twelve years bow hunting and had no club involvement. When Axel died, the kids were out of the house, my commut-

ing lifestyle was over, and there was good grouse and woodcock hunting in my backyard. I attended a Heartland Test; saw John Pitlo and he remembered me. That led to getting a new pup, Brinker, in 2004. Taking more photos at tests and writing an article here and there eventually led into the editing job. The experience has been wonderful. I only partially joke when I say that the club is my church. I've made wonderful friendships across the country and around the world thanks to this bushy-faced Cesky Fousek. Hunting grouse in the U.P., pheasants in the Dakotas and prairie grouse in Montana never would have happened for me without the dog club. I relate this story because I hope other club members will discover the value of getting involved with the club and the effort to promote the Cesky Fousek here in North America. The pay isn't much, but the benefits are huge. My experience is also a lesson to the club to not give up on members who haven't been active. Life circumstances change and someone who has been inactive for years might just be ready to step up now. Keep seeking new faces.

When I began working with the GDS, the black and white, printed newsletter was the club's sole communication link with members. With the advent of social media, we now have a web page, a YouTube channel and several Facebook pages. Each of these requires club member involvement too, whether it's posting photos, making videos or responding to viewers. There are many ways for members to participate. And don't worry if you're not an expert; there's nothing like learning on the job. So if your infinitives split or your participles dangle, not to worry—the club can use your input. Just ask: How can I be of help?



Three Amigos:

Rem DeJong with Brinker of Indian Creek (left) and Burley of Salmon River (right). These two furry companions shared my adventures throughout my time as editor.

(photo by the author)

More Ways to Follow Cesky Fousek North America

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCemLcT-twFTG0S_YGZJTzrQ

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Cesky Fousek North America

Chapter club Facebook sites:

Be sure to “Like” your chapter’s page; then share your stories and pics about your Cesky Fousek.

CFNA Northeast

Cesky Fousek Northwest Chapter

Cesky Fousek North America Heartland

Cesky Fousek North America Rocky Mountain

Cesky Fousek North America South east

Don’t forget to check out the club hats and shirts available for sale on line. Great last minute holiday gift.

<https://ceskyfousekna.org/buy-apparel/>

Future Events

Note: Spring Test details are in flux due to COVID-19 and test grounds reservation issues. Please contact the Test chairs to confirm details. The latest Test details, reservation forms and maps will be posted in the testing section of the web page. <https://ceskyfousekna.org/progeny-testing/> There is a link to each chapter test on the main menu. Annual seminar is planned for Rocky Mountain Test.

Northwest Chapter

February 27, 28 Training and exposure Feb 26.

Contact Dennis Carlson carlson@gorge.net

Rocky Mountain Chapter

Wednesday, March 24 - Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Training day, Seminar day, and three days for testing

Contact: Angie McDunn: McDunnK9@hotmail.com

Heartland Chapter

Tentative dates: April 23,24,25

Mazomanie Test Grounds, WI

Contact: Dave Read readgriff@gmail.com

Northeast Chapter

Tentative dates: May8-9

Stetson, ME

Contact: Laurie Connell (207) 505 2175

Southeast Chapter

No event scheduled at this time.

Contact: Donn Fizer (205) 641-0471

Please renew your membership
Memberships are January through December

Go to:

<https://ceskyfousekna.org/join-renew/>