

The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWSBULLETIN of the WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA
EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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It Is Moments Like This That We All Hunt For.



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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By now all of the regional chapter's fall hunting tests are over with. For Kathi and I these tests are a fun time to get together with old friends, to meet new ones, and of course to talk about Griffons and bird hunting. These test weekends are such a great time that I would have to say they are just about perfect. I say "just about" because the only thing I can find wrong with them is that they are too short!

It seems like we had just gotten to the test site and already we are saying goodbye. Before I know it, it is Monday morning and it is time to go back to work. I blink once and think; Did we really spend three blissful days watching Griffons and their owners having fun or was it all a dream? I blink again. This is about the time when reality slaps me in the face. Slaps me just hard enough to let me know it is going to be a long day and most likely a long week. There is no hot water; I pour a bowl of cereal only to find we forgot to pick up milk on our way back home; bills are due, the car needs fixing; I am late for work....aaargh!

On most any given weekday morning I am a bit reluctant to get out of bed, but not during the fall because it is HUNTING SEASON! This time of the year brings back memories of that old Calgon commercial. You know, the one where the woman slips into the bubble bath and says: Calgon, take me away. (Right now you are probably wondering what in the blazes does bubble bath have to do with bird hunting OR Griffons. Just hear me out. I promise I will make the connection.). Being able to grab the shotgun and get my Griffons out into the woods is my bubble bath. Here things are simpler, rules are straight forward, and the goals are easier to reach. When I take that first step off of the beaten path and into the young aspen stand I feel like saying: "Wisconsin Northwood's, take me away". Soon the forest envelops us with its sights and smells of autumn and all my worries are forgotten....

It is election time and I don't mean the presidential race. I am talking about club officers. Read more about it below.

The WPGCA E&RF now has a website, <http://wpgcaerf.freesevers.com>. Be sure to stop by and check it out. While we are on the subject, read about the WPGCA website, www.wpgca.org, on page 5. It has been online for just over 3 1/2 years and has compiled some interesting statistics.

Whatever you do this fall, above all else, take your Griffons hunting and just have fun.

Mike Lockwood

NOMINATIONS FOR OUR ELECTION OF OFFICERS THREE YEAR TERM 2002-2005

By Joan Bailey

You will all remember, from reading your copy of the Constitution, which you received when you joined the Griffon club, that we have our election every three years. The executives of our club (Gary Pool, John Pitlo, Joan Bailey, Jim Seibel), have nominated the following:

President:	Gary Pool, Idaho
Vice-President:	John Pitlo, Iowa
Secretary:	Judy Coil, Minnesota
Treasurer:	Jim Seibel, Michigan

If you wish to nominate any other club member for one of these office, please get their permission first, then have the nomination, in writing, to the secretary's office no later than November 1. The additional directors are appointed by the executive branch (our four officers).

COVER PHOTO: ADDEE OF CHERRY POINT (Ariko Vom Erik x Branka of Cloudy Skies) at 5 1/2 months of age retrieving her first bird. This photo was taken by owner Carson Kendall while the two hunted the Abert Rim near Lakeview, Oregon in early November 1999.



50th ANNIVERSARY!!!!
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America
August 29, 2001
Let's Have Some Dog Parties All Across America!



By: Joan Bailey

Yes, 50 years ago next August, General Rogers formed our little club. Now we are not so little - yet not too big either. I think we all deserve to have a blast, dogs and all, so let's repeat what we did in 1988 when we helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of the original Griffon club in Germany, formed by Korthals.

Let's have as many gatherings as we want, any place we want, **ALL ACROSS AMERICA**.

Chapters can do it. Any small groups of Griffonniers can do it. August 29th, 2001 is on a Wednesday, so let's pick a Saturday, **AUGUST 25TH**, and we'll all raise our glasses at the same time and do three hip hip hoorays! For us, for our dogs!

Start planning now. The **ONLY** requirement is that each gathering has a birthday cake and agrees to send in a picture of the cake!

You can do whatever you want. Duck races, costumes, obstacle races, whatever suits your fancy, as long as it's **FUN** for dogs and people. You can sit under a big shade tree and tell outrageous stories.

You can check out the October 1988 GDS, and the **GRIFFON** book, pages 197-200, for ideas.

Let me know what you are going to do. Let the editor of the GDS know and give a contact name, tel number and email.

It only takes two dogs and their owners to tango! Hey, we could have a tango contest for dogs!?!\$ %
Now Joan.....

See you next August 25th! Think of it - 50 YEARS!



ABE OF CHERRY POINT (Ariko vom Erik x Branka of Cloudy Skies) at 13 months of age, owned by Jack Dallimore, pointing a covey of quail. **BOSS OF THE CASCADES** was his great grandfather.

(Photo by: Jack Dallimore)

YES, JOAN IS STEPPING DOWN **BUT NOT GOING VERY FAR!**

By: Joan Bailey

There is always a time to do something, and this is the time for me to step aside, take a break, etc. etc. Actually, I'm starting a new career (which pays better than Secretary of the WPGCA), but I will be staying on as one of the directors, along with Warren Webster and Glenn Lehrer. And I will remain on the breeding committee, and will be at most of the tests in that capacity, as usual.

JUDY COIL

By: Joan Bailey

Judy has a terrific background to be our secretary. She and her husband, John, both hunt extensively. Judy has her own dog, and has now bred two litters. She and John are the field test chair people for the Heartland chapter, so are very active, very involved.

Judy is very organized and efficient. Knows computers very well, so will be much more on time than I have been.

I am so grateful that Judy has accepted this nomination. Let's all of us help and support her in every way we can.



*Judy Coil shown here with her Griffon **BERTA OF SHOW-ME-BOREALIS**, after a successful duck hunt. (Photo by: Jon Coil)*

MORE ON OUR INTERMEDIATE HUNTING DOG TEST

By: Joan Bailey

We officers and judges are beginning to realize that some few years ago we "goofed," to use a more acceptable phrase. Some of us told owners of young dogs who had done their natural ability tests in the spring that "Your dog really isn't ready for IHDT, why don't you wait and run him in the spring."

That was a mistake. And what we hear too many times now, from owners of dogs that should be entered in fall IHDT, is "My dog isn't ready for IHDT. I'll run in the spring."

What the truth is about all this is: It is not important to the program if your dog does not qualify in IHDT in the fall. What IS important is that the dog be tested at that time of his life. That's the key to IHDT.

We know that everyone wants his dog to qualify. Who wouldn't? But for the good of the breed we all have to put our egos aside and run our dogs in the fall. If your dog does not qualify you do have the option to run again in the spring. And that's fine. We will have a record of both tests. And that's what matters for all of us.

Remember breeding decisions are made on test results, accurate records of dogs' performances and at what age they were tested. You'll note in the GDS test result issues, where the scores of all dogs are listed that one column is "age of dog at time of test." That is a very important piece of information.

So please help us to correct this misconception and test your dog about 6 months after he/she does NAT.

THE WPGCA ON THE WWW

By: Mike Rackouski

It is probably safe to say that 99% of the U.S. population has heard about the World Wide Web (WWW) or the internet at one point or another. Let's face it, it is hard not to. Television and radio commercials include product web page address' and magazines and newspapers print them. In fact, these business' have their own web sites. Everything is a "dot com" nowadays....and so it is with the WPGCA (www.wpgca.org) and now the WPGCA Education and Research foundation (wpgcaerf.freesevers.com).

The, albeit, short but exciting history of the World Wide Web

Before I get into the club web site it is important that I first explain what the internet and WWW exactly are. Within the past decade we have been bombarded with these two words. What exactly are they? It turns out that the internet has been around for over 30 years. The internet is basically a network of networked computers. It all began in the late 60's with funding from the Department of Defense. The concept was to create this network so that if several computers went down communication between the remaining computers would not be compromised. The Defense Departments interest in all of this was fueled by the threat of nuclear attack. At this time only defense contractors and universities had access to this network.

Where does the WWW fit in all of this? To find out we must fast forward to the early 90's (1993). Up to this point the internet had limited access and was strictly text-based. Not only that, the software was cumbersome and hard to learn. In 1993 the internet was opened up to the general public. At about the same time, physicists at the European Particle Physics Laboratory developed an authoring language which allowed them to share dynamic electronic documents. This language became known as Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). HTML basically takes electronic documents, that are static, dry, and flat, and allows the author to add audio, video, photos and special text effects. Not only this, but through hypertext links authors can directly reference outside documents from within their own page. Rather than the reader having to search for these articles on their own, all they have to do is just point and click and they are immediately taken to the source. No longer do individuals have to deal with fragmented documents or spend hours searching for pertinent information. Now, they have it all at the tip of their fingers. The World Wide Web was born.

The last piece of the WWW puzzle came from students and faculty at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The problem was: How do you bring the technology to the masses? Their answer was to develop the first "web browser" called Mosaic. These same students would later go on to create their own company (Netscape) and develop popular browsers (Navigator, and later Communicator). Now that the puzzle was complete, the stage was set for a technological revolution.

In the early 90's the WWW was a frontier, not much unlike the "wild west" and the gold rush days of the 1800's. Then as now people saw their chances of striking it rich. Some did achieve their goal while many others did not. However, unlike the gold rush, the WWW's vast richness doesn't lie just in the chance of making money. Most of the gold can be found in information. Never have so many people had so much information at the touch of a button. Still more gold can be found in the ease and speed at which people can communicate across town, across country, and across the world! While many sought monetary fortunes many more saw the endless possibilities in the dissemination of information.

The making of a website

It was in late 1994 and early 1995 when a couple of club members first began thinking of the possibilities of a club website. Back then the idea was met with little enthusiasm. After all, how many people

had heard about the WWW, let alone, knew its full potential? It wasn't until after the WWW exploded onto the scene that the idea finally took hold. That is when, in the fall of 1996, I received a phone call asking to put a club website together. To accomplish this task I enlisted the help of fellow club member Brian Feltoovich. Together we worked on the site through the winter of 96/97 and on March 14th, 1997 the club's web site was officially "online". Our goal back then was to simply give the club an online presence. The WWW is an immense collection of information, but that information is only as good as the person presenting them. Sometimes it is best to say things yourself rather than let others do it for you.

I don't know how many of you remember that first web site, but it was a simple one compared to today's standards. It was basically one page of information, a couple of photos and some links to more information.

Probably the most memorable thing about the site was the background image. The image was that of the Griffon with a duck in its mouth. The same image that appears on the envelope of the GDS mailings. Back in those days that was a good web site. In fact, on April 5th, 1997 our site was given the Acme Pet-Cool Site of the Day Award.

That was then, this is now. Today we have a myriad of web authoring languages, new WWW standards, more bells and whistles, gadgets and gizmos. What was once a frontier has now started to very slowly settle down and mature. As it has, the main thrust of the www has gone from one of just making information available to one that also offers services to its visitors so that they keep coming back. This idea meshes nicely with a club based site like ours. An important aspect of any club's vitality is communication. With this in mind a guest book was first added where visitors could sign in and leave a

Our message board is visited 47 times a day. Since August 23rd, 1998 it has been accessed 35,881 times.

note. Next came a message board. With this web page based service visitors can post questions or answers. This is a great way to learn and to meet people with the same interests. Just recently, a discussion list was added. While this offers basically the same service as a message board, each posting is sent to your email address rather than a web page. To view these postings all you have to do is check your email. To add some entertainment to our site a poll has been added. Each month, or so, we will feature a new survey where people can cast their vote. To see the results from our first survey see figure 1. By the way, if you have a topic for a future survey let me know.

While these services were added the web site also went through a facelift. First came a domain name (wpgca.org) making it easier for people to find the site and to remember it. Then the site was redesigned and more content was added. A menu list was created to better organize the available information. Pages were then added for each of the four regional chapters. The idea behind this was that people could access the pages to see what is going on in their chapter and to get more information about it. Today, not only can members get around the site better, but they can also keep in touch with fellow members.

Well, it has been 3½ years since the club site began and so far all of this sounds good, but what has the site done? To give you a better idea I have summarized a

Table 1. The total number of visitors (hits) to our web site between Jan. 13th, 1998 and Sept. 30th, 2000 broken down by geographic region.

Continents	Percent	Visitors
North America	96.82	30,121
Europe	2.64	821
Australia	.17	53
Asia	.08	25
South America	.07	22
Africa	.03	9
Central America	.01	3
Other	.18	56
Total	100	31,110

Figure 1. What do you prefer to use to keep track of your dog while hunting? (out of 62 respondents)

A. Bell	22	35%
B. Beeper	11	17%
C. A bell and a beeper	7	11%
D. Nothing	22	35%

couple of the more important statistics about the site. Please note, though, that these stats began January 13th, 1998, just about 1 year after the site was up and running, so all the numbers shown are actually higher. If you look at Table 1 on page 6 you will see there have been 31,110 visitors (hits) to our site and that the vast majority of these have been from the U.S. and Canada. The remainder of the hits (989) are from 47 countries that span the entire globe. After the U.S. the top 5 countries are (in order); Canada, Netherlands, Finland, Spain, and France. Some of the more obscure countries that have seen our site include Qatar, Ecuador, Cyprus, Iceland, and Indonesia. This is the beauty of the WWW. What other media works 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, delivering dynamic documents instantly around the world?!

The number of total hits per month for the last 19 months averaged 1,078.

Another indicator of a web sites success is the number of new visits and return visits. For our site, 60.5% (18,821) of the hits are first time viewers. This means that 39.5% or 12,289 hits are from people checking back. Of the new viewers, 45% (8,462) were referred to our site from other sites such as various search engines (56.4%) and other web sites (43.1%). From these figures it is safe to say that not only are people finding our site through search engines, but also from various web sites that have a link directly to our site. Our web page also has a good number of people that are coming back to our site to

18 new viewers visit us each day.

see what is new and to keep updated with what is going on around the country. (This, of course, means that 36% or

10,247 hits are return visits.

All of the data used in this article is open to public viewing. To view these statistics just go to our home page and along the left hand side of the page, just above the menu list, you will see the image in figure 2. Just click on this image and you will be taken right to the stats.

While a lot of data is collected in regards to visitors to our page no personal information such as personal names, email addresses etc. are being tracked. The stats are only used to gauge the performance of our site and to give me the information I need to make sure the majority of visitors are able to view the pages as was intended.



Figure 2.

I NEED YOUR HELP!

By: Joan Bailey

I am writing another book!!!!!! It will be an adaptation of *How To Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves*, but will be for **ALL** dog owners, not just owners of gun dogs. What I need from you folks are photos of other breeds-**ALL KINDS OF BREEDS**.

Maybe you have friends who have a: Dalmatian, a Beagle, a Poodle, a Husky, on so on.

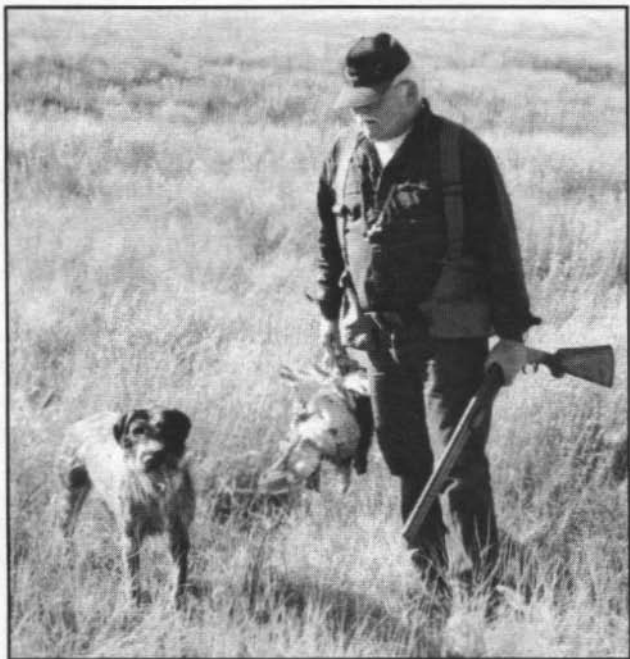
The photos should be in conjunction with different kinds of "conditioning," except for hunting. For example, I need photos of puppies and young dogs being taken to different places as part of their conditioning-maybe to the park, to the school play ground, to the pet store, on a picnic, camping, whatever and wherever you see an opportunity.

Photos do not need to be of "pure" bred dogs, they can be a mixed breed. In fact, it would be good to have a few photos of dogs of mixed, or questionable background.

Photos can be in color or black and white, doesn't matter.

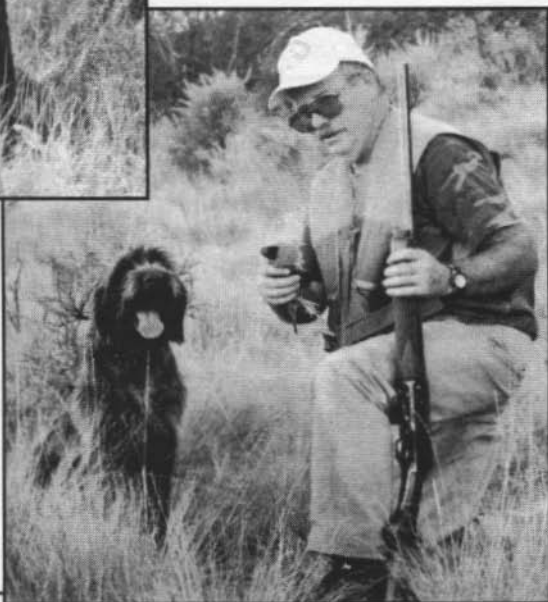
If there are people in the photo, Please get their name, address, and telephone. You can tell them you are taking photos for a book on dogs and their dog might be in the book. Then I'll follow through with their address, etc., If I am going to use a photo of their dog. (It is illegal to put a photo of a person in a book if you don't have their permission to do so.) Animals, no problem, people we need permission.

I will be forever grateful for all the help you can give me on this. Unfortunately no griffons please. Sob.



(left) Mick Muck and **FESTUS ANN OF AUGER FALLS** (*Ariko vom Erik x Elle of Auger Falls*), of South Dakota, after a successful day of sharp-tail grouse hunting in October 1999. (photo by: unknown)

(right) Gean Lale and **LANCE HILL'S KORTHAL** (*Lance Hills James x Tonight's Midnight Rendezvous*), of Washington, with one of 6 quail they shot in October 1999. (photo by: unknown)



(below) Gordon Young and **BARON VON CLIPPER OF BIRKSHIRE POND** (*Blue Mountain Brew x Birkley Belle of Dutchman's Hollow*), of New Jersey (right) after a day pursuing Montana pheasants with a friend and his Drahthaar (unidentified). (photo by: Unknown)

