

# *The Gun Dog Supreme*

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

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October 2003

Volume 78, Number 5

October 2003

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## **THIS IS WHEN THE TRAINING PAYS OFF !**



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## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**S**eptember 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003. This was the day of our first hunting trip this fall for Badger, Beck, and I. This Isn't really news worthy except that in past years we would have been out at least 4 times by now. It really isn't attributable to any one thing except EVERYTHING! Outside work needs doing before the snow flies, the mower engine blows halfway through the last cut of the year, work gears up for the next class of fish, relatives visit, etc... The list is really endless and it is so easy to get caught up in it. .

I didn't really think much about this first outing. Minutes before leaving the house I just grabbed everything I could think of and threw it in the van. My thoughts were still on projects and deadlines. Badger and Beck, however, knew when I grabbed my shotgun and vest that a whole lot of fun was coming quickly. They couldn't jump into the vehicle fast enough. I wish I could have seen it like they did. It wasn't until we were 15 minutes into the woods that I finally did see it. But I did more than that, I smelled it, felt it, and tasted it. For me, nothing is more cathartic than walking through a young stand of aspen as their leaves are changing colors and getting poked and slapped by the branches, while carrying my double barrel and eating a Bayfield Cortland apple as my Griffons scour the terrain for birds.

This issue starts out with a call for nominations of officers down below. On the following page Dennis Carlson summarizes the Northwest Chapter's spring test. On page 4 Jon Coil writes about Bartos first season experiencing birds. Also, Be sure to check out the hats and decals dedicated members of the Northeast Chapter put together to help raise money. An order form can be found inside.

Get out there and hunt!

*Mike Rackouski*

## NOMINATIONS FOR OUR ELECTION OF OFFICERS THREE YEAR TERM 2004-2006

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, Judy Coil, 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 15<sup>th</sup>. The additional directors are appointed by the executive branch (our four officers).

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## 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:

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Should be sent to the respective editor 2 months prior to the issues printing. Word document via email preferred.

## PHOTO SUBMISSION

All photos should be sent to

Joe Kuzmak  
E120 Military Rd  
Deerton, MI 49822  
Ph: 906-343-6653  
Email: joe@up.net

Include the name of the dog and owner, and who took the photo. If sending a print DO NOT WRITE ON THE BACK OF THE PHOTO; attach a sticky note. Include a SASE if you would like the prints back.

Digital photos are welcomed and should be 1024 x 768 pixels in size. You can email them or send them on a disk/CD.

## WEBSITE

wpgcaerf.freesevers.com  
www.wpgca.org

## NORTHWEST CHAPTER TEST REPORT

By: *Dennis Carlson*

The original idea was to test four Natural Ability dogs and one Intermediate dog on Saturday, April 5 and three Natural Ability dogs on the following Sunday. Logistically, this was going to be just about right. It looked like we were going to be able to head home early on Sunday. This test was going to be particularly interesting because we would be testing four Canfield "**B**" of **Valley House** littermates on Saturday. Our breed club understands that in order to make good breeding decisions it is critical to test entire litters. It is a rare treat to observe this many littermates demonstrate their natural inherited hunting abilities together all in one day. The fact that I also have a littermate from this litter, who was previously tested at the KDK test in California, may have had something to do with my personal level of interest. Then about two weeks before the test, I got a call from Nathan Amarant asking if he could run his dog in Natural Ability. Before I had a chance to tell him that the test application deadline had passed and the test was full, Nathan explained how disappointed he and his uncle, Gary Pool, were when his dog, **Brie of Valley House** got sick and couldn't be tested in Idaho with the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Gary is our national Club president and also just so happens to have a pup from this litter. Five Canfield littermates. We were going to make it happen. I decided to bring my dog, **Bella of Valley House**, to the test so we could see six littermates together. Before the hunting horns announced the official start of the test, these six pups had a chance to romp around together off lead and get reacquainted. It was really something to see. It was as if they remembered each other. Maybe they did.

The pups did well for the most part. It was good to see the consistency. It rained all day, but it wasn't that hard driving kind of rain. I was pleased by how well the test scorecards held up in the rain. They were copied onto special Rite-In-Rain brand paper, which I've used in forestry field work for years and highly recommend to other chapters. The birds flew and ran well. We even managed to test Brendan Woodward's **Annie of Marsh Stream** on the track of the duck portion of her Intermediate test, which she completed on Sunday.

We all gathered at Mary Mc Crank's for dinner and to hear the test scores. Just as we were ready to order, our waitress announced that Mark Canfield was buying the drinks. We were in a celebratory mood. I'm glad I didn't have to drive. Glenn Lehrer had recently returned from a diving trip to the Dominican Republic with some very special Cuban seed cigars. When he told me he was going to share these cigars with us, I told him I would bring what was left of a bottle of Venezuelan rum I brought back with me about twenty-five years ago. It was pretty late by the time we made it back to the motel, but out came the cigars and the rum. Steve Grieser, Dick Bubb, Victor Woodward, Glenn Lehrer, Nathan Amarant, and I kicked back in chairs outside under the White Spot Motel veranda while the rain poured down in the parking lot in front of us and had a wonderful time trading hunting stories, and reminiscing about dogs. It was after 1:00 AM in the morning when I finally rolled into bed. Refreshed from a very sound sleep and with the taste of that fine cigar still on my breath, I set about organizing the Sunday tests. We had two Natural Ability littermates, registered with the American Kennel Club, a Natural Ability dog, registered with the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, and we needed to finish **Anne of March Stream** in Intermediate. We had a little rain, but not like the day before. We couldn't get Gean Lale's, **Lance Hill's Champagne Dolly** to swim and she showed us a disappointing search, but she did really well at pointing and tracking. Her brother, **Lance Hill's Diesel**, handled by the breeder of this litter, Robert Strampe, breezed through the test with all fours. Glenn Donald's, **Wayfarer's Twilight en Paris** was a real joy to see. The judges considered awarding her a four with honors in search. I don't think I've ever seen a dog with so much drive, stamina, purpose, and cooperation. All fours. I hope we see more of her litter.

*Continue on page 6...*

## A PUPPIE'S FIRST SEASON

By: Jon Coil

**I**t was Sunday afternoon on the weekend before our rifle deer season started. We were within one hundred yards of the truck on the last leg of our hunt and Bartos' bell went silent. I found him on point next to a patch of hazel brush just off the trail. I walked past Bartos and a grouse flushed. I shot and the grouse went down. We both moved up and Bartos pointed again, broke point then started tracking the broken winged bird. I walked the few yards to the ditch grade and waited. A proud Bartos carried the grouse onto the grade though, not to me. He was a couple days short of six months old.



**BARTOS OF MARSH STREAM** (*Chyte Ze Zaplav x Prairie Storm's bogan*) after a Minnesota grouse hunt at 5 ½ months of age. (Photo by: Jon Coil)

He was born May 5<sup>th</sup> to Bristol of Alderbrook, owned by Ted and Sandie Silver. He was a young puppy for our early seasons in northern Minnesota. At our Heartland fall test on the weekend of the September 21, he was 4 1/2 months old. Hank Carriger and I released a pheasant, which had been used previously in a track, into some long grass just a few yards from an area of cattails. I walked into the grass with Bartos following to see if he could find some scent from the pheasant. We went to the edge of the very thick grass and found nothing so I returned to the road. Bartos didn't follow all the way. I retraced my steps and found him with the pheasant pinned in the grass. He liked it.

We had a month and a half before our deer rifle season and it was going to be very intense in order to get Bartos all the exposure I could while giving Adler as much upland hunting as he deserved, hunting ducks and spending some time with family. Our grouse season virtually ends for us with the deer rifle season in early November though legally we can hunt until the end of December. Two weeks of the woods full of deer hunters then deep snow and the start of fisher and bobcat trapping usually has us switching to weekends of pheasant hunting in southern Minnesota from Thanksgiving till the end of the pheasant season.

Bartos had his daily exposure walks and was doing great for his age when we headed for Saskatchewan the weekend after our Heartland Fall test. He was a trooper, riding in a dog crate on top of a crate holding Berta. On the first of October I was walking Bartos over a central Saskatchewan stubble field to hunt a windbreak of box elder trees by an old homestead. He was a few yards in front experiencing the new ground and scents. At the end of the windbreak a covey of Gray partridge flushed. Bartos jumped. It is amazing how close game passes when you aren't going to shoot. They circled us at twenty yards, chirping as they flew towards a brushy pothole. We found the covey again then followed and flushed some singles. I couldn't say Bartos flushed them. He did stay out front but, I didn't see him being drawn towards the birds by scent and the birds flushed as close to me as him.



The next day we were a hundred miles away and I was walking with Bartos through a pasture to where a sharptail grouse had just landed in the grass next to some willows. We flushed several sharptail from the spot and Bartos watched them fly. They landed a couple of hundred yards away. When we got them up this time Bartos was out in front trotting through the brushy patch they had landed in. He was closer to the flushing birds than I and was curiously searching for something, though he didn't know what.

The next week it was back to Minnesota aspen woods. I picked Bartos up from home while I was working and had him with while I marked out a timber sale. Bartos was searching with more intensity. He was getting out from me a little more and I wished a couple of times when he was out of sight in the thick brush and foliage that I had put a bell on him. I heard him flush two grouse about thirty yards from me. I saw a snowshoe hare bound off and I waited till Bartos came by, he found the scent and tracked the hare's trail for a distance.

Just before a lull in the season for family visits in the middle of October, I saw two grouse on the road in front of the house. They went into some birch trees and willow brush covering a ditch berm between the road and a field. I got Bartos over to the berm and into the strip of birch. He found the bird's trail and back tracked for a short ways then turned around, picked up the trail and tracked the birds another twenty yards till he got close enough to flush them. Excitement!

Our fall of 2002 was cold with snow covering the ground in the shade of the balsam fir trees from the middle of October on and woodcock were scarce. During this down part of the grouse cycle we were fortunate in finding grouse for Bartos and he was flushing grouse regularly plus an occasional woodcock. When he didn't get to hunt we continued his daily walks. The second of November the sound of Bartos' bell moved off through the young aspen we were hunting in. I listened and it quickly became a faint tinkle. I heard a grouse flush then the sound of Bartos running back to find me.

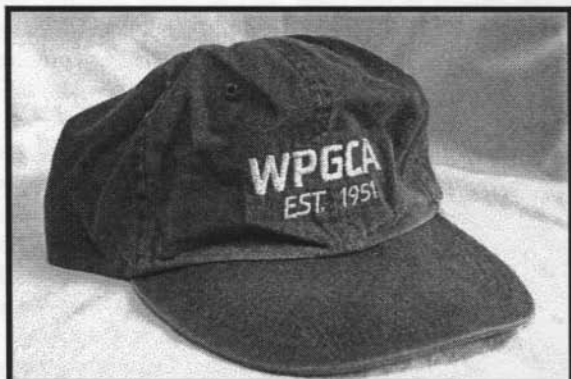
The next day was his first point. We had him hunting 17 of the 34 days from his contacts with the gray partridge to his first grouse point. I would say there were about thirty bird contacts during that time, some contacts were more than one bird. When we couldn't take him hunting we continued with the daily walks and sometimes encountered birds or squirrels. There is still a long way to go on this journey of learning from each other. He is not going to point every bird and there will be success and frustration but, we are becoming partners and it is getting more fun every day.



**BARTOS** and owner Jon Coil at the Heartland Regional Chapter test weekend where Bartos was tested in NAT last spring.

(Photo by: Sid Siefken)

## NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTER FUND RAISER



Thanks to the efforts of dedicated members in the northeast, the following items are available for purchase. All proceeds go to help out the Northeast Regional Chapter.

The hats are stonewashed cotton twill. One size fits all and are available in 6 different colors.



The window decals are 3 inches in diameter and will add class to any vehicle. Show your support for the

WPGCA and help out the Northeast Chapter. Just fill out and mail the enclosed order form to the Northeast Chapter treasurer, Kurt Soneson, 253 Hoxie Hill Rd., Orrington, Me. 04474

### Corrections

I would like to apologize to Joe Moeggenborg and his dog **"DEKE OF IAMONIA"** for an oversight in my calculations of their test scores. They should have received a Prize III instead of the no prize that I awarded.

My deepest regrets,  
Rick Molt (Sr. judge)

For information on hunting tests put on by the Northeast Chapter the contact information for Field-test Chairpersons, Erik and Sarah Anderson, should be: **P.O. Box 345, Andover, NH 03216, Phone: 603-735-5827, email: anderson11@tds.net.**

### *Continued from page 3...*

This test was successful because of many people pulling together. I first want to thank the people who tested their dogs. This takes guts and it's so important to our breed's future. I also want to thank our judges and apprentice judges. Steve Grieser was our senior judge. Glenn Lehrer and I made up the rest of the official judging team. Victor Woodward, Dick Bubbs, and Larry Semmens, who flew all the way from Alaska, helped us by apprenticing. Good judging is the foundation for everything else we do. The apprentice work they commit to is most important. Joan Bailey helped us with judging on Saturday. She continues to be valuable asset to our Chapter. Jeff Dillon and Riley Kennedy planted birds on Saturday. Richard Santos planted birds on Sunday. Harvey Storey served up an incredible hot taco buffet lunch both days of the test. Thank you Harvey! Sitting down for a meal together has a magical way of bringing everybody together. Lastly, and most importantly, I'd like to thank Larry and Nancy Mason for allowing us the use of their excellent test grounds.

**IMAGES  
FROM A  
HEARTLAND  
TEST  
WEEKEND**  
(Fall 2002)



Above—**BROGAN OF NICHOLS CREEK** (Elmo of Auger Falls x Adeline of Sandhill) and happy owner Tim McCarthy. IHDT, Prize 3 (Photo by: Ben Niemann)



Left—Jeff Braun starts his hunting companion, **BAXTER OF NICHOLS CREEK** (Elmo of Auger Falls x Adeline of Sandhill), on the track of a live pheasant portion of their IHDT. Baxter went on to get a prize I. (Photo by: Ben Niemann)



**STAYING IN STEP.** A very important tool in the club's program is recording the conformation and coat of every dog. Here judges check the gate of **ABIGAIL OF VALLEY HOUSE** (Chipper De Los Altos x Avery of Mountain House) as owner, Dan Walsh walks her along during her IHDT in the fall of 2002. (Photo by: Ben Niemann)



**Northwest Chapter group photo.** Dennis Carlson with **BELLA OF VALLEY HOUSE (VH)**, Nathan Amarant with **BRIE OF VH**, Bill Barrett with **BLAZE OF VH**, Riley, Kevin, and Jake Kennedy with **BOGAN OF VH**, Larry Semmens, Dick Bubbs, Elizabeth Mayer with **BRUCE OF VH**, Stan Martinkus with **BLANCA OF VH**, Steve Grieser, Victor Woodward with **AMIE OF MARCH STREAM**, Glenn Lehrer, Jim Jarvis with **CHUKAR DE LOS ALTOS**, Lyla Lehrer. (Photo by: Mary Barret)