

Montana GSP Club News

Sponsored by the Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club



October/November 2003

Volume 6



By Christopher Eckhoff
Upland Kennels, Savage,
Mont.

Listen, don't talk

This article first appeared in Gun Dog magazine, Oct/Nov94.

It seems that every article you read on selecting the proper trainer for your gun dog concentrates on references and kennel conditions. While these are indeed important, another consideration should be taken into account: the trainer's ability to listen.

A friend used to have a sweatshirt emblazoned with this question: "Can we talk about my dog now?" While this is humorous on the surface, its significance goes much deeper. We all know people who can do nothing but talk about their dogs. I'm sure most of us have been guilty of this at one time or another. However, a trainer must be able to get past this temptation and learn how to listen. As long as you are talking, you can only espouse what you already know. When you are listening you learn.

Very few trainers are average conver-

sationalists. They come in two groups usually; talkers or listeners. It takes about 10 seconds to find out which they are. The best approach when first addressing a trainer, whether it be in person or on the phone, is to introduce yourself, give a very brief history of your dog, what training you are interested in, and then stop talking. The trainer's response will invariably be a 40 minute dissertation on everything he or she knows about training—whether it has anything to do with your particular situation or not—or you will experience a few seconds of silence. The trainer who remains silent is gauging you. There is nothing wrong with that.

Many, many customers are talkers as well. If you launch into your own dissertation, you tell the trainer everything you know and, more importantly, everything you don't know. This puts the trainer at a distinct advantage. If you respect this moment of silence, it will always be fol-

lowed by a series of questions from the trainer. Answer to the best of your ability and answer only the questions asked. The trainer needs certain information to give you an accurate appraisal.

He should be asking you about your dog's experiences, especially regarding your training. He should ask about the dog's lifestyle, that is, is the dog a house dog or a kennel dog? Do you have a family and how is the family involved with the dog? He will ask under what circumstances you acquired the dog. He will want to know how you intend to use the dog and your goals for him.

The trainer should be interested in the dog's background and ask to see a pedigree, if possible. Just leave the questions in his hands until he says, "OK, here's what I think about your situation."

Now it is your turn to ask any questions you may have. The questions you need to ask include: How much experience do you have with my dog's breed and can you include in your references someone that has this breed? How long have you been in business at your present location? Do you concentrate on trialing or hunting training? How many assistants do you have? What percentage of my dog's training will they do?

In the world of dog training, there are no stupid questions. Don't be afraid to ask anything that is on your mind. It's your dog.

The best trainer I ever met was a German Shorthaired Pointer field trial trainer
See Listen.....page 3

From the President's desk....

It's the time of year most of us live for -fall! Upland bird season is in full swing as is migratory bird season. Our dogs know it's time for them to go to work.

Fall also brings a close to our club's annual activities. We had one of our most active years to date. We held our first American Kennel Club Pointing Dog Hunt Test this spring near Bozeman. Our judges, Charlie and Sue Williams of Brighton, Colorado graciously volunteered to hold a "How To Start Your Pointing Dog" seminar the day before the test. The seminar was well attended and we offered a one-year membership to those who participated. Several club members put hunt test legs on their dogs and anticipate passing more tests toward AKC hunt test titles in the future.

This fall we were set to hold an AKC Pointing Dog Field Trial near Bainville. We had a full line up of judges and a number of entries, some from as far away as Texas. However, mother nature threw us a curve. Montana is in the throws of a drought. The fire danger was extreme and we were forced to cancel our event in the interest of public safety.

As our year draws to a close, it is time to elect officers for 2004. A sample ballot appears in this issue. The election committee met in September and placed names onto the ballot for your consideration.

Our membership drive is in full swing. If you are receiving this newsletter and are not a current member, please consider joining us again. We have many new faces among us and are committed to events for 2004. A list of them appears in this newsletter. Membership is the foundation of the club. Your dues make it possible to continue to publish our newsletter, host our website and sponsor events. I invite each member to recruit at least one new member this year. Our membership is not limited to shorthair owners, some members own Brittany's, Wirehairs and Weimaraners to name a few. A couple of our members currently do not have dogs, but support the club with their dues and volunteering to assist with

events. 2003 was one of our best years and 2004 could be even better with your support.

Please take the time to visit our new and improved web page for pictures and details about this event and other club activities. Our secretary, Leanne Smith does a wonderful job of keeping our site current, and we can all thank her by accessing it often.

If you have an e-mail address please make sure you let us know what it is so you can be added to our list. E-mail is the most effective and cheapest way for us to keep in touch in our huge state.

The Montana GSPC was well represented at the "Strut Your Mutt" on the Capital Lawn in July. I was even interviewed on the radio and we signed up a couple of new members.

GSP rescue is becoming a bigger task each year. Over a dozen dogs have passed through Montana rescue in the past year and many more need homes. You can do your part being responsible owners, setting good example and educating other GSP owners. Often I have people tell me they want to breed their dog and ask about using one of my stud dogs. When I ask about their dog's bloodlines and abilities the usual comment is, "She is AKC registered."

I try to explain that all that means is that she is supposed to be a purebred dog but that is no reason in itself to use her for breeding.

Leanne made a beautiful quilt and donated it to raise rescue funds. If you would like to buy a few raffle tickets to try to win this gorgeous quilt please let me know. We have several new members and welcome their participation in our club.

The more members we have, the more we can accomplish with events and just plain dog fun.

Thank you for your support now and in the future.



Photo by Leanne Smith

"Lazy Heart's Cowboy Justice" at GSPCA National Specialty show in Riverside, California, bred by Nancy Lane and owned by Jean Graham.



Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club
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lzyharts@midrivers.com

www.montanagspc.org

Officers:
Nancy Lane, Glendive, President
Alan Heltemes, Williston, ND, Vice-President
Leanne Smith, Helena, Secretary
Carol Nelson, Billings, Treasurer

Board of Directors:
Jean Graham, Billings
Christopher Eckoff, Savage
Judy Merwin, Flaxville

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Upcoming Events 2004

May	<p>MT GSPC Pointing Dog Hunt Test To be held in the Three Forks area. Contact: Jim Whiitila at (406) 443-2896 or e-mail spotteddogfarm@msn.com. This year's event will be two days. You may enter one or both days.</p>
June	<p>German Shorthaired Pointer Fun Match Yellowstone Kennel Club Dog Show Billings, Montana Contact: Leanne Smith (406) 449-9940 or e-mail kurtzlaw@bresnan.net</p>
Sept	<p>Pointing Dog Field Trial Bainville, Montana Contact Chris Echhoff (406) 798-3457 or e-mail upland@midrivers.com. This will be a three-day event</p>

Meeting minutes July 12, 2003 Minutes

The following members were present at the home of Rod Abercrombie and Treasurer Carol Nelson in Billings: Rod Abercrombie, Carol Nelson and Nancy Lane. The following members were present via phone: Secretary Leanne Smith and Jim Witaala.

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Lane at 12:10 p.m.

Old Business

1. One-year free memberships were approved for members to give to people they sell puppies to. Nancy showed the certificate and Leanne will ensure that the graphic is embedded in the file.

2. The May 11, 2003 AKC Hunt Test results are posted on the club's website and AKC has acknowledged receipt of all the information they require. Leanne and Jim are still working on the final tally of funds and expenses.

3. Nancy thanked Jim for his donation of more than 300 lbs of dog food to the rescue program. Jim is encouraging all members who receive coupons for food for NSTRA events donate them to the rescue program.

4. Nancy, Jim and Leanne are still sell-

ing tickets on the quilt Leanne designed and made for rescue. The quilt has been valued at \$1,250. 550 tickets will be sold at \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

5. The Butch Nelson Snake Break Clinic is on hold. It was scheduled for July 19. If it can be rescheduled, Rod and Carol will notify members through Leanne.

6. Nancy said we are getting closer to being approved as an AKC specialty club. We need to hold a show match before being approved. We will ask the Helena Dog Club if we can hold the match after BIS in September at their fall show.

7. The GSPCA has approved the Sept. 12, 13 and 14 Field Trial dates. AKC will not approve until the complete judging panel, emergency plan and fee have been submitted. We are running out of time. The rule is that the entire packet is to be submitted at least 90 days in advance.

New Business

1. Nancy will take the quilt and several rescue dogs to the July 19 "Strut Your Mut" event in Helena on the Capitol Lawn.

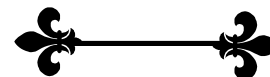
2. Alan Heltemes has asked Nancy if the club would provide lunch at the NSTRA event in Glendive the 9th & 10th

Listen.....from page 1

named John Merrell out of Bakersfield, California. I met him at my first field trial. I had a young pup that had never been to a trial before. John had a rig with 35 dogs and two horses. I was across the camp in a tent. He came over, introduced himself, then let me talk. I was so flattered that he would take time out from his routine to come over and talk with me I could hardly believe it. As it happened, we were braced together in that trial. When we came to the line, I realized he knew everything about me and my dog, but I knew nothing about him. I took that lesson to heart and have never forgotten it.

This same principle applies to selecting a trainer for your dog. No matter what your goals are, it pays to listen rather than talk.

Christopher Echhoff is a professional dog trainer and member of the Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club. He may be reached at upland@midrivers.com. This article may not be reproduced without written permission from the author.



of August. Leanne suggested club members be asked to donate burger - game and beef for hamburgers as well as salads, chips etc. The club would charge \$5 per person. The money would go to the general fund.

3. Alan is still working on the Sept 12, 13 and 14 MT GSPC Field Trial to be held in Bainville, MT near the North Dakota border. He has some of the details worked out. We have to have judges panel approved before we can take another step in the process.

4. Leanne made a motion to approve all the new members who became new members through the "how To Start Your Pointed Dog" seminar. Carol seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

See Minutes Con'tpage 7

2004 Election Ballot

Ballots must be received by November 1, 2003.

Please select one of the following nominees or write in another member's name.

President: _____ Nancy Lane _____
Write In

Vice-President: _____ Jim Whiitala _____
Write In

Secretary: _____ Leanne Smith _____
Write In

Treasurer: _____ Carol Nelson _____
Write In

Board of Directors: Choose three of the following:

_____ Christopher Eckoff _____ Alan Heltemes

_____ Judy Merwin _____ John Nunnes

_____ Write In

Send ballots to: Leanne Smith, 617 N. Raleigh Street, Helena, MT 59601
Members who have paid their 2002 dues are eligible to hold office and vote.

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

www.montanagspc.org
Visit today


Attention writers and photographers
The Montana GSP Club newsletter and website is soliciting original articles, opinion pieces, poetry and photographs.
This is a great opportunity to test the waters and share your knowledge, opinions and photographs.
Send your submissions to: Leanne Smith, 617 N. Raleigh Street, Helena, MT 59601 or e-mail them to kurtzlaw@attbi.com.

How can you help?

The Montana GSP Club can use donations of:

Auction/Raffle Items

- art work •merchandise
- vacation packages •event tickets
- golf course passes
- t-shirts, hats, travel mugs
- guided fishing and hunting trips



Rescue Program Needs:

- Dog Food •Bedding •Cash donations for medical care
- Foster homes •Transportation

To donate contact:
Nancy Lane (406) 486-5445
Leanne Smith (406) 449-9940

The Montana GSP Club is a non-profit organization registered with the Secretary of State. It is a 501(C)(3) organization and follows all Federal guidelines to maintain its status.



German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America standards of the coat, color and gait

Coat

The hair is short and thick and feels tough to the hand; it is somewhat longer on the underside of the tail and the back edges of the haunches. The hair is softer, thinner and shorter on the ears and the head. Any dog with long hair in the body coat is to be severely penalized.

Color

The coat may be of solid liver or a combination of liver and white such as liver and white ticked, liver patched and white ticked, or liver roan. A dog with any area of black, red, orange, lemon or tan, or a dog solid white will be disqualified.

Gait

A smooth lithe gait is essential. It is to be noted that as gait increases from the walk to a faster speed, the legs converge beneath the body. The tendency to single track is desirable. The forelegs reach well ahead as if to pull in the ground without giving the appearance of a hackney gait. The hindquarters drive the back legs smoothly and with great power.

Join the MT GSP Club today

Your Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

e-mail address

Please check interest or participation in the following dog activities: upland bird hunting__ waterfowl hunting__ hiking__ field trials__ hunt test__ obedience__ show__ agility__ tracking__ rescue__ other__

Number of dogs owned_____ Breeds_____

I hereby apply for membership in the Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club and _____enclose \$30.00 for one year's dues (Make checks payable to the MT GSP Club)

_____enclose \$300.00 for a lifetime membership

_____enclose a donation for Montana GSP Rescue _____\$10_____ \$20 _____other

I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club and the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.

Your signature

Date

Complete and send to: Leanne Smith, GSP Club, 617 N. Raleigh Street., Helena, MT 59601

May 2003 MT GSPC Hunt Test



Photos by:
John Nunnes
West Yellowstone

Spring training seminar and hunt test successful

The Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club held its first American Kennel Club Hunt Test in May.

The event was preceded by a "How To Start Your Pointing Dog" seminar conducted by Sue and Charlie Williams of Brighton, Colorado.

Hunt Test Results

Master Level: 3 entries 0 passed

Senior Level: 2 entries 1 pass

"Breeze," a two-year-old German Wirehaired Pointer bitch owned and handled by John Nunnes of West Yellowstone, passed their Senior Hunt Test.

Junior Level: 10 entries 5 passed

"Lazy Heart Huntheim Crystl Ice" owned by Nancy Lane of Glendive and Donna Taylor of Colorado lives with and was handled by Leanne Smith of Helena. The 15-month-old German Shorthaired Pointer bitch passed her

first Junior Hunt Test.

11-year-old male German Shorthaired Pointer "Radbach Hal's Young Einstein", owned by Jim and Betsy Wiitala of Helena and handled by Jim Wiitala, was the oldest dog to pass the Junior Hunt test.

Reggie and Kathleen Brewer of Helena's two-year-old Brittany spaniel bitch "Big Sky Sassy Jessie" passed the first leg of her Junior Hunt Test. Jessie was handled by owner Reggie Brewer.

"Salmac's Big Sky Chief", a two-year-old male Brittany spaniel from Great Falls, owned and handled by Alex Gavrishoff of Great Falls passed his Junior Hunt Test.

"CH Lazy Hearts Quantum Leap" passed his Junior Hunt Test. The six-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer is owned and handled by Nancy Lane, Lazy Hearts Kennel, Glendive. "QT" excels in the field and is a finished show champion.

Minutes Con't

5. Rod suggested we list our web site with Bird Dog and Retriever News. Nancy will submit our site for a free listing if offered.

6. Rod also would like to see our club take credit for being the only AKC licensed performance/specialty club in MT and that all our events are open to all AKC pointing breeds.

Treasurer's Report

Carol announced the club has \$248.12 left in the treasury after paying the club liability insurance which was about \$600. The company who supplies this coverage is through the AKC Risk Purchasing Group, Evanston Insurance of Esquire, Inc. Aurora, CO. Our coverage is through June of 2004 for \$2 million.

There are no more expenses for the hunt test and the club should be receiving about another \$75.

Secretary's Report

Leanne said she and Jim would finalize the rest of the details from the May 11, 2003 AKC Hunt Test this week. She will get the names and address of the new members to Jean Graham.

Jim made a motion to dismiss the meeting at 12:40. It was seconded by Rod and passed unanimously.

Hunt Test

May 2004



Contact: Jim Whittila
(406) 459-2365

Websites of Interest

Montana Pets On the Net: www.montanapets.org is a site dedicated to Montana shelters, rescue groups, and dog-related events in Montana.

Readers can post questions regarding Canine Health at www.caninehealthonline.org. Some forums include questions and answers regarding vaccination.

www.fielddog.com is your premier Internet source for field trialing and bird dog hunting information. Featuring many national bird dog associations and clubs.

www.versatiledogs.com is a site dedicated to pointing dogs, retrievers and spaniels.

www.thecheckcord.com is the sportman's one-stop site for upland hunting, bird dog training and competition information.

Publisher
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Editor/Layout/Design
Leanne Smith, Helena

Contributing writers and
photographers:

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Leanne Smith, Helena

Published bi-monthly by the Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club. The Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club is a non-profit organization registered with the Secretary of State. It is a 501(C)(3) organization and follows all federal guidelines to maintain its status.

Please send all photos, letters, ideas, information, updates and articles to the editor at: Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club 617 N. Raleigh Street, Helena, MT 59601 or e-mail them to kurtzlaw@attbi.com

Please visit our website at:
www.montanagspc.org

Did you know:

- The German Shorthaired Pointer was first admitted into the AKC Stud Book in March 1930.
- The first AKC Licensed Specialty Show for the breed was held in Chicago on March 29-30, 1941 at the International Kennel Club Show.
- German Shorthaired Pointers are versatile hunters and all-purpose gun dogs.

MT GSP Club Objectives

To encourage and promote the breeding of purebred GSPs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.

To encourage the members and breeders of GSPs to meet the requirements of the American Kennel Club (AKC).

To urge members and breeders to accept the Standard of the breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which GSPs shall be judged.

To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsman-like competitions at dog shows, field trials, obedience and hunt tests, as well as at any dog event.

To conduct AKC licensed matches, events and specialty shows, field trials, hunt tests, obedience trails, agility and tracking tests under the rules of the AKC.

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