

Spoon River Chapter Fall Test

September 25-27, 2009

Gobbler's Knob Hunting
Preserve

Canton, IL

Contact : John Sondag

(309) 968-7907

OR

spoonrivernavhda@
yahoo.com



Chapter Officers

Terry Postin-President
309-649-0112

John Sondag-Vice
President
309-968-7907

Randy Ashman-Test
Secretary
217-840-6681

Adam Jaquet-Secretary
309-854-3180

Doug Gustafson-
Treasurer
217-498-6705

Test Plans Highlight Meeting

During the July Training day, a short Chapter meeting was held to discuss plans for our upcoming test.

First, for our fall test and all tests in the future, we will use chuckars for NA, UPT, and UT, no quail. The primary concern over the use of quail was if we have a situation like we did at our spring test where there is heavy dew and the quail don't fly. Also, we had an issue finding birds this spring, but with this decision we can plan ahead with Don at Gobbler's Knob to save back enough birds for the spring.

Second, dates for our 2010 tests were set. In the past we had set these dates at our annual meeting in February. However, waiting until February meant we had to check the calendar to make sure we didn't conflict with other chapters in the region and that we had a harder time filling our test. The Spring 2010 test will be May 21-23. The Fall 2010 test will be September 24-26. Randy Ashman agreed to continue as Test Secretary.

Finally, we are examining options to save expenses on our test. Two primary

ideas were brought forward. First, if there is anyone who would be willing to host a judge or two at their home during the test weekend, please notify Terry Postin or John Sondag. Second, instead of going to a restaurant for dinner on Saturday night, it was decided that we would do a cook-out style dinner. This also should facilitate more conversation between handlers, volunteers, and chapter members. Adam Jaquet volunteered to organize the dinner. He will be asking for volunteers to help cook and set up on Saturday.

-Adam Jaquet

Fall Test Rapidly Approaching

With the fall test just a little over six weeks away, slots are quickly filling. Currently, we are scheduled to test September 25-27 at Gobbler's Knob Hunting Preserve. If you plan on testing a dog, get your registration in to John Sondag as soon as possible. His contact

information is in the sidebar at the left. We need several volunteers to help the test run smoothly. If you are testing one day and can help the other, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not testing, we would appreciate your help on either or both days. We need at least 6-8 workers each day. Please contact

John Sondag or Terry Postin to volunteer.

Saturday afternoon/evening we will have a cook-out dinner at Gobbler's Knob. If anyone has any menu ideas or would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve food, please contact Adam Jaquet.

Good Luck to Randy Ashman and Palmer as they head for Ohio and the 2009 Invitational!



Next Training Day August 24

Our last training day was a very successful day for a large group. Training days are a great opportunity to ask questions of more

experienced trainers/handlers, learn new methods of training, and seek help on a problem. We have a wealth of great experience

in our chapter and training days are a chance to learn from that experience as well as a chance to share your experience with new trainers.

Finding A New Success

Just wanted to pass along the first 2 pics of Duncan actually swimming to retrieve a bird. We were at Banner Marsh last Saturday [July 25] with the NAVDHA group.

Duncan flushed out 3 birds in the morning and went duck (OK, it was a pigeon) retrieving in the afternoon. I know it's only a pigeon, but you have to start

somewhere! And yes, the wings are duct taped. This keeps the bird from flying off. He LOVES the birds and we both had a good time! More updates later,
-Cheryl Walters

