

## Spoon River Chapter Spring Test

May 29-31, 2009

Gobbler's Knob Hunting  
Preserve

Canton, IL

Contact : Randy  
Ashman

(217) 840-6681

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

## Successful Test for Spoon River

Congratulations to all the handlers on a successful test, May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

We had 16 dogs run over the two days, 12 NA, one UPT, and three UT.

### Results: Natural Ability

1. BirdCrazy Radar, GW, handler Howard Zimmerman – 108 points, Prize II
2. Radley Creek Jessica, WPG, handler Shane Dunne – 99 points, Prize II
3. Dutch Hollow Ain't She A Dream, GSP, Handler Tara Sondag – 112 points max score, Prize I
4. Silvershot's Duffy Gun Dakine, WM, handler Louise Zimmermann – 99 points, Prize II
- 4 Windy City Omar, SP, handler Adam Jaquet – 110 points, Prize I
6. Goodman's Eagle Pt

Grace, SMP, handler Michelle Wilbers – 98 points, Prize III

7. Swan Creek's Blaser, LM, handler Austin Bueter – 108 points, Prize II

8. Robinson's Lil Annie Oakley, BS, handler Nathan Robinson – 99 points, Prize II

9. Dankar Zeke, GSP, handler Charlie Staats – 90 points, Prize III

10. Daisy, WPG, handler Steve Fisher – 25 points

11. Goodman's Eagle Pt. Grace, SMP, handler Michelle Wilbers – Prize III

12. (*unknown name-didn't get it written down*), SMP, handler Michelle Wilbers – Prize I

### Utility Preparatory Test

1. Callie, GSP, handler John Sondag – 147 points, Prize III

### Utility Test

1. Brahms, GWP, handler Shae Birkey – 195 points, Prize I

2. Ivy, GSP, handler Bob Hauser – 173 points

3. Ice, GSP, handler Bob West – 204 points, Prize I

And a big congratulations to Chapter member Shae Birkey and Brahms on qualifying for the 2010 NAVHDA Invitational!

Thanks to all those who helped organize and run the test, get birds, set up, tear down, gun, plant birds, etc.

And finally, a very big thank you to Test Secretary Randy Ashman and Assistant Test Secretary Keely Ashman for all your hard work.



Natural Ability Test Handlers and Judges. Front Row L to R: Louise Zimmermann, Charlie Staats, Austin Bueter, Howard Zimmermann, Michelle Wilbers, Steve Fisher, Nathan Robinson, Shane Dunne, and Adam Jaquet. Back Row L to R: Judges Jerry Schenk, Bob Hauser, and Senior Judge Jim Moe. More Photos Later in this issue.



## Training Tip: Position Yourself to be on Time...

Timing is everything, and timing often goes wrong in training because the handler is simply out of position to “train” the behavior. Take the command “come,” for instance. If the dog is off-lead and doesn’t comply when you say “come,” what got trained? The dog learned that when you said “come,” and he didn’t do it, NOTHING HAPPENED TO HIM! The dog “got trained” he can ignore you. The more you say it, and scream it, the more the dog learns that it’s okay to avoid you. Want to reinforce it even more? Chase him! What might’ve helped in this situation? Because the dog wasn’t ready to be off-lead (so, first rule: know where your dog is in his training), a check cord should’ve been in use. If you use an electronic collar, the same principle applies. Teaching

steadiness, in the case of a more advanced example, is all about timing: get it right, and the dog realizes he can’t break with the fall; wait too long after he breaks, and all of the sudden the dog thinks he’s being punished for retrieving game. The point here: think ahead about the behavior you’re modifying. Set up the situation so you can be in position to time the reinforcement for the exact behavior you want to address. Sometimes it’s important to ask: is my dog even ready for this phase of training? In the case of a dog ready for steadiness training: set up the training scenario so you can be at the dog ready to punish breaking or reward steadiness. Be it electricity or a sharp pull on the check cord or an upbeat “good boy,” you have to do provide the reinforcement as an

immediate response to the behavior and that requires being in position and ready. Poorly set up scenarios that put handlers out of position, or leave them unprepared to deliver reinforcement, create unintended consequences that require “fixes.” In situations where you find yourself out of position, it’s often best to do nothing at all. It is sometimes better to deliver no reinforcement than to reinforce the wrong thing and create a new problem. Working with a partner, especially in the case of steadiness work, can ensure scenarios that advantage the trainer. Often, without a partner, trainers find themselves attempting 12 different things at once, and, as a result, they are not in position to be “on time.”

-Barry Pearson



## Membership Rates Rise

I received a notice from the NAVHDA Office, that effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, membership rates for the International have risen \$5. The basic membership rate is \$55.00 and premium is \$78.50.

Any questions about this change should be directed to the NAVHDA Office at

847.253.6488  
 fax 847.255.5987  
[navoffice@navhda.org](mailto:navoffice@navhda.org)  
 (Also, NAVHDA is a 501(c)(3) and membership dues are tax deductible)

As of right now, there are no plans to increase the Spoon River Chapter membership dues of \$35.

Your dues help support chapter operations, in particular, insurance for training and testing. Chapter membership forms can be found on our website, [www.spoonrivernavhda.org](http://www.spoonrivernavhda.org).

-Adam Jaquet



L to R: Terry Postin, Jerry Schenk, Tara Sondag, Bob Hauser, Sophie, and Jim Moe as Sophie begins her field search in the NA Test.



Jerry Schenk, Austin Bueter, Blaser, and Jim Moe as Blaser begins his field search.



John Sondag, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left, receives instructions from Howard Zimmermann prior to beginning the field portion of the UPT, as Jim Moe, Bill VanderLann and Jerry Schenk look on.





Adam Jaquet and Omar returning from the pheasant track.



Bob West firing a blank shot during the duck search portion of the Utility Test.



Tara Sondag and Sophie return from the pheasant track on their way to a 112 max score.





Shae Birkey prepares for his shot during the duck search portion of the Utility Test, as Judges Jerry Schenk and Howard Zimmermann plug their ears.



Bob Hauser welcomes Ivy back to the bank after her duck search.





Test Secretary Randy Ashman converses with Pat McKinley and Fred Hansen, while Adam Jaquet looks out to the field.

**Next Chapter Training Day**

**June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Gobbler's Knob – Canton, IL**

