

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

Spring Test Rapidly Approaching

In less than three weeks, we will be gathered at Gobbler's Knob for our spring test, May 29-31.

Testing will begin at 7:00am all three days with exercise and instructions beginning about 6:30am.

Test Secretary Randy Ashman has posted an informational letter for the test on our website, www.spoonrivernavhda.org. All club members and

test handlers should read this information. If you have any information that needs to be added to this page, let Randy know (contact info at left). There will be no mailing prior to the test, unless someone does not have e-mail or internet access.

Also, we need people to help run the test on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Needs are for

bird planters, duck throwers, gunners, and set-up help for NA and UT watre tests. Overall, at least 3-4 people per day are needed. Again, contact Randy.

As of my last contact with Randy, we still had a couple of slots open for NA on Friday and one or two UT slots for Sunday. Good luck to everyone running.

Training Tip: Early Reinforcement by Play

It's never too early to begin training that new puppy. While many behaviors will, of course, need to come along as a matter of course, some things can be positively reinforced early on. For instance, here's a little game I start with new puppies. As soon as they seem comfortable carrying toys around the house (and they know their names) I'll use our long hallway to begin fun-fetching. Shut off all the rooms to the hallway, get his attention, and toss the

pup's favorite object down the hall. Once he chases it and picks it up, call his name and encourage him to come with the "fetch" command. No obedience, nothing strenuous, just take advantage of his desire to play. Once he comes to you, which the hallway will naturally encourage him to do because he can't go anywhere else, simply sit on the floor and hold him in your lap, allowing him to keep the object in his mouth. This is next step is the most important part.

Pet him, lavish a lot (and I mean a lot) of verbal praise on him, saying "good fetch," etc. As he releases it naturally from his mouth (without force from you!), repeat it. Don't overdo it, though. Keep the sessions very short. The key here is that you are becoming the pup's lair. In the wild, he'd drag a kill off to his den; here, you're working to become his lair. But this substitution happens best when a dog is young.

-Barry Pearson





Have patience and go to someone who has the experience to help.

Dalton's Swim

Everyone knows that dogs have a built in instinct to swim. Some take to the water like a duck. Others need time to mature and work up to that moment.

Some like Dalton here would let another retrieve the thrown dummy and be glad to meet your dog at the water's edge and try to

snag it for the final retrieve.

We all would like to have champions and love to say "yeah man. It only took two times for my dog to get that down".

Sometimes you got to get in there and help structure the dog's confidence. You

took him away from his mother at eight weeks of age. Now you have assumed the role and you are the teacher. I guess the main point here. Have patience and go to someone who has the experience to help.

-Mark Postin



Member Spotlight: Shae Birkey



Shae and Brahms in South Dakota, 2008, along with a day's haul of ducks and pheasants.

Name: Shae Birkey
Spouse: Katie
Hometown: Pekin, IL
Currently Resides: Aurora, IL
Occupation: Wetlands Ecologist
First Hunting Dog: Brahms
Dog(s): Brahms – 3 year old Deutsch Drahthaar
Hunting Experience: 22 years, since age 8.
What do you hunt: I hunt pheasants in Illinois, Iowa, and South Dakota; ducks in South Dakota, Arkansas, Illinois (north to south), and Iowa; turkeys in Illinois, Alabama, and Iowa; whitetails in Illinois; geese in Illinois (north to

south); woodcock and grouse in Wisconsin; quail in southern Illinois; and rabbits in southern/central Illinois.
How long have you been working with and training Versatile Hunting Dogs: 3 years.
What do you hope to gain from NAVHDA and the Spoon River Chapter: New hunting buddies and an education from senior dog trainers.
NAVHDA Awards and Accomplishments: 112 Prize I NA
Other testing accomplishments: 71 VJP VDD-GNA and 173 HZP VDD-GNA.

Brahms is a stud dog for the VDD.
Your best day of hunting: Hunting ducks in the morning, then hunting pheasants in the evening in South Dakota.
Other information to share: I love the folks in this Chapter and I'm so glad to be a part of it.

**Please fill out your member profiles and puppy profiles and submit them as soon as possible to Adam Jaquet, adam_mm32@yahoo.com.*

Spoon River NAVHDA on YouTube

We have a new way of sharing the joy of our versatile hunting dogs. Introducing the Spoon River Chapter's YouTube channel is up with the first videos posted from our April 25th training day. The channel can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/SpoonRiverNAVHDA>. This channel is available for any chapter member to

post videos to, simply log in and upload. For log in information, e-mail me at adam_mm32@yahoo.com

Videos can be of anything in relation to versatile hunting dogs. Got a video from a recent hunting trip? How about some footage of your last training day? Or maybe you want to film some training tips. Did

you take a kid bird hunting for the first time and get some video? Share it.

The only thing to keep in mind, respect each others privacy. Unless you are posting a video of yourself or have the okay from the people in your video, please don't use people or dog's names.



Another Testing Opportunity

The Germans Shorthair Pointer Club of Illinois is hosting a water test on Saturday, June 13th, at the Seneca Hunt Club at Seneca, IL. Open to All Pointing Breeds. Owners of GSP must be member of GSPCA in order to receive title certificate. Rosettes will be awarded to all qualifying dogs,

regardless of GSPCA membership.

For further information, contact:

Water Test Chairman
Adam DeLude
Thefirstdayback@yahoo.com

Water Test Secretary

Sean Audy
324 Wilhelm Ct.
Joliet, IL 60433
co1651@yahoo.com
815-693-2387

Entry Fees

NRD-\$35.00
RD & RDX \$45.00

Our next training day is May 23rd, 2009.
Gobbler's Knob
Canton, IL
8:00 am