

The Gun Dog Supreme

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

<http://www.gundogsupreme.org>

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Spring is really late here in the Midwest, so good luck to all you handlers trying to find some open water in which to practice duck tracks for the up-coming Heartland and North-east spring tests. Can we test affinity for water in a motel hot tub?

I did get to take in the Rocky Mountain Griffon Club test out in Jerome, Idaho, along with the Judges Seminar and BOD meeting. It was really great to meet the western contingent of the WPGCA and experience your well-run test. Thanks so much for the warm hospitality.

The Judges Seminar was outstanding. Craig Koshyk, our presenter has made an excellent summary of his seminar available on line. Be sure and download it. We'll also make an audio recording available on the web.

Much of the BOD activity focused on future directions for our club. A recording of the meeting will be on the WPGCA E&R website at <http://huntersgriffon.org>.

Enjoy this issue; get out there and work with your dogs, and don't forget to send in your photos and griffon adventure stories.

Rem DeJong

On the Cover

Jen Lachowiec and Zeb Breuckman take a breather with **Benny of the Midnight Sun** by perching on a volcanic boulder in the Snake River Canyon during a UFT at the Rocky Mountain Griffon Club Spring Test near Jerome, Idaho.

See more photos at:
<http://wpgca.smugmug.com>

For information requests or to join the WPGCA please email Robin at:

rstrathy@q.com

EDITORS

Rem DeJong
John Pitlo

SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

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Judy Coil
49625 Waldo Rd NE
Kelliher MN 56650
Ph (218) 647-8451
jcoil@paulbunyan.net

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Send articles or proposals 1 month prior to publication to:

Rem DeJong
Ph: (906) 228-6475 (EST)
e-mail: crdejong@charter.net

PHOTO SUBMISSION

All photos should be sent to:

Rem DeJong
809 West Kaye Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Ph: 906-228-6475(EST)

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WPGCA Board of Directors Action

Following publication of the article "Where to Now?" in the February, 2014 issue of *The Gun Dog Supreme*, the BOD received e-mail comments from many WPGCA members. In addition, several attendees voiced their opinions at the March 2014 BOD meeting in Jerome, Idaho. We appreciate the thoughtful input and expressions of support for the WPGCA. After extensive discussion, the BOD moved to consider a name change for the organization to "The Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America" with the intent of breeding dogs that will be recognized as Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffons. There are several issues to be resolved in order for such a change to take place. For example, we were unsure if and how such a change would fit in with the Cesky Fousek Club in the Czech Republic - so we are going to explore that and see if it is feasible. We will also investigate ways of becoming more closely aligned with the Czech Republic Fousek Club. As the BOD learns more and formulates recommendations for specific action, we will communicate details to the membership in future issues of the GDS.

Gary Pool, President
WPGCA

Note: Audio recordings of the BOD Meeting and Judges Seminar will be made available on this website soon. <http://huntersgriffon.org/resources/>

2014 Judges Seminar Update

Craig Koshyk, gave an outstanding presentation at our annual judges seminar. Access a .pdf file presentation summary here, complete with active links to the various videos from the presentation (and a few others as well).

http://www.craigkoshykphoto.ca/presentation_wpgca_2014.pdf

Pointing Dogs, Volume 1: The Continentals by Craig Koshyk is available here:

www.dogwilling.ca

It is also available through Ugly Dog at <http://www.uglydoghunting.com/> and Dogs Unlimited at **<http://www.dogsunlimited.com/>**

Finally, you'll love his blog. It has tons of information and great photos.

<http://pointingdogblog.blogspot.com/>

Dutchman's Hollow H Litter Owner Update

Below is a compilation of reports from owners of the Dutchman's Hollow H Litter. There are nine pups in the litter, and by press time, we had reports on seven. Here's what owners have to say in their own words.

Huck of Dutchman's Hollow —Jeff Dillon



Huck gets hunting exposure in Deschutes River Canyon, Oregon

(Photo by Jeff Dillon)

Intense, ornery, exasperating, and hard-headed are a few words that immediately come to mind when I first think about Huck. Intense in that he is so food driven that he still inhales his meals as if there were several siblings descending upon his food (and he knows when it is meal time). Wave a dog biscuit around and you have his undivided attention. Ornery in that ever since he arrived here, he is always baiting my wife's dog (80 pound border collie/Newfoundland mix) into furious rough-house play (to hear it you'd think he was going in for the kill but the other dog loves it). Exasperating in that he must chew every little thing he finds and consume it on the spot. He cleaned our back yard of all white oak twigs and acorns (the one's the squirrels did not want) last fall. Hard plastics, small bits of paper, crayons, etc. have all made it into his mouth (we scour the room before we let the dogs in but he still finds things). Hard-headed in that trying to teach him some household manners is sometimes like talking to a door. Many

repetitions necessary, firm voice, and considerable patience required. I think you could yell into his face and all you would get is a “What are you trying to say boss?” (Sigh)

But after I think about it for a few minutes, I see a pup that is so eager to please, I see a pup with great potential, I see a pup that is going to make a great hunting companion. He raids my daughter’s bedroom for stuffed toys just to have something to bring to me (much to her annoyance). And that brings up retrieving - he loves retrieving things. He races off after a thrown bumper and comes hurtling back at me with a “Got it boss!!” look on his face and very happy with himself. He easily offers up the bumper for another throw. Wherever I’m at is where Huck wants to be. He will respond to my wife and daughter but if I said “come” and started to walk away, he’d forget about them like yesterday’s news and be getting out ahead of me for wherever we were headed. He generally loves people but occasionally a little shy at first meeting (Huck is a little standoffish with kids under 4 years old – not sure why).

In mid-February, Huck weighed 57 pounds and I know he is heavier today. He is approaching the 25 by 25 mark in size and he is still 3 months shy of one year in age. His coloration is dark chocolate brown with a one silvery patch of hair on his fore-chest and a few sparse silvery hairs on each foot. He has no furnishings around the ears, eyes, or muzzle. Nor does he have any feathering to his legs. He does have a very short beard on his lower jaw. His coat is very flat lying and extends all the way down his belly (I’ve loved this part as we worked through cockleburs and tick-seed last fall – the seeds may lay on his back but in a few minutes they have fallen off). I’ve noticed here in the last month or so that his hair along the latter part of his back and tail are getting a bit coarser. There have been no health issues (even with all the things he’s consumed) to date. My vet (he raises and hunts German wirehairs) will spend 5 minutes on dog checkup and 20 minutes on how well he likes the look of Huck (especially the dark chocolate brown color).

Starting about mid-October, Huck and I were out hunting at least one day a week (this continued until late January). Game bird populations in Oregon last fall were terrible. Even in my little hotspots where it takes some effort to get into and typically find birds, came up lacking. We were able to eke a few upland birds over the course of the season. Whenever we did come across some game birds, I’d show Huck that I was excited by the birds to get him excited. He would spend some time where the birds had been (and yes, that nose of his works quite well!). We also hunted waterfowl several times. We ended the season with a few ducks and one Canada goose. Unfortunately, Huck never saw the waterfowl go down so he was not overly keen on getting into the cold water. So I had to make the retrieves but once the birds were brought into few, he was all about getting his mouth on them (to the point I had to hang them in trees out of his reach). Gun shots do not seem to bother Huck in the least. He just seems more interested in determining what the loud noise is all about. We have been working on water work the past couple of months. He’s getting there about ambling into the water without encouragement but there is a ways to go yet. Our biggest issue is that we need to find/work birds. He was pretty much the young pup checking out this big new world that he got to explore every week. The lack of birds was definitely disappointing for training a pup

but I'm hopeful next fall will see increased bird numbers.

My favorite memory of the season was a late afternoon hunt high up the wall of the Deschutes River Canyon. We were looking for chukar. Huck was ranging out about 40 yards when he stopped dead still and was clearly testing the wind coming into his face. He moved forward about 5 feet and stopped again. Suddenly 7 horned larks came off the ground about 5 feet ahead of him. Huck spun on a dime and came racing back toward me (clearly spooked) and I shouted "GOOD BOY". He slammed on the brakes and spun back around and went racing back to where the horned larks had been. He spent several minutes checking out where the larks had been. Ten minutes later, we were working around the point of a spur when Huck suddenly became very focused and quickly moved 40 yards downslope on a straight line (definitely not his standard MO). He stopped, tested the wind, looked back at me, moved another 10 yards, and stopped again. About 25 feet ahead of him, 4 chukar burst of the ground heading down canyon. He whipped his head around to look at me with a "Did you see that!!" look on his face. There was no coming back this time as he moved forward and commence checking out the area where the chukar had just vacated. (Ah Grasshopper, the wheels are starting to turn.)

My least favorite (or chilly) memory from last season was went we were working a heavy grass bottom along a stream in late December. It was cold with ice along the edges of the stream. We popped over a little rise along the stream and seven green-winged teal took flight. Without even thinking, I fired a quick shot and downed two birds just on the far edge of the stream. I just looked at them and though "oh my, this could be troublesome." Huck was in the thick grass and never had a chance to see what the commotion was all about. The ducks were hung up in the water along the edge of the stream (about 20 feet from us). Going on his love of a biscuit, I pulled one out of my hunt vest and waved it under his nose. I then chucked it right in front of the ducks. We then both proceeded to quietly watch the biscuit float down the stream into a deep eddy. Huck looked up at me; I knew exactly what he was thinking; "well that was a waste of a perfectly good biscuit!!" That was when one of the teal broke loose from the bank and started its trip toward the deep eddy. I was just not going to let that happen. Off came the boots and socks, rolled up the pants and waded in. Water was not too bad after my toes went numb. Just caught the teal before the water got over two feet deep. I turned around and found Huck swimming right beside me trying to see what I had grabbed out of the water. Appeared he just needed to know there was a reason to go into the water. Another 3 to 4 minutes wading around retrieving the other duck and letting Huck do some short retrieves, it was time to get out. For that day, I think I met John Pitlo's request that we work the pups on ducks and water.

Hilda of Dutchman's Hollow—Rich Schwerin

Hilda has been a wonderful addition to our home. Since I acquired her last September at the Heartland Chapter field tests in Wisconsin, she was just a young puppy during last fall's hunting season. So, that meant mostly just exposure to the fields and bonding with her. The hunting was very limited also because of a lack of wild pheasants in Minneso-

ta. This was due primarily to a bad hatch in the spring of 2013 on account of a long winter and unfavorable weather. This coming season will be the time for some serious exposure and fall hunting in South Dakota.

Hilda has a very outgoing personality and is just full of energy. She loves being around family members and meeting all kinds of strangers, including other dogs. At this point she has a ind of her own and can be a bit stubborn. Yet, she is eager to please and learns basic obedience rapidly, like heeling, sitting and dropping or lying down on command. As far as coming on command is concerned, that is something she has to think about. "Is it to my advantage or should I keep on doing what I want to do?" is the way I interpret her attitude. Yet, I realize that I need to let her be a puppy and explore the great outdoors and all the interesting things that nature has to offer. Especially after having been in the house during a long, cold and hard winter, she is eager to get outdoors and just run to her heart's content.

We have cottontail rabbits in our back yard, and it was just fun to see her pointing them at a very young age. One of the rabbits almost lost its cute white tail but managed to get to the brush pile in just the nick of time. Hilda then proceeded to try to dig into the brush pile, but I pulled her away and Brier Rabbit was granted another day of grace.

Hilda was in the water only a couple of times last fall. That's an area where she needs some coaxing and more exposure. She does love to retrieve bumpers and sticks on land. She has exposed to loud noises and gunfire which gets her excited and interested in what's coming next.

Because Hilda is a young "lady," she has beautiful feminine features, evident especially in the shape of her head. She is rather small, about 42 lbs. at 9 months of age. Yet, her appetite is great and she's all muscle. I think that she's just beautiful (although some may think that I'm a bit biased).

Both my wife and I are delighted to have her as a new family member, and I look forward to some real good hunting experiences with her this year and following.

Helena of Dutchman's Hollow—Vince Esposito

I first want to thank you, Robin, Jim, John and last but certainly not least, Vivian for bringing Ellie into our lives. She truly is living up to her name Helena, for she is a shining light. Ellie is AMAZING! Every day on our morning trek into the field I watch in total awe, how she takes on new things with such ease. Her confidence builds each day as her experiences broaden.

Today was a special morning for Ellie and me. I dragged a duck out of sight of her and then brought her in and pointed to feathers placed at the beginning of the track and let her go. She was brilliant as she confidently worked down the track, at first missing the turn but quickly returning to the turn to follow the rest of track to the bird. Both of us were so happy as we romped back to the truck knowing that she has a nose.

The last two weeks were full of activities to broaden her exposure. Started gun sensitivity using live ducks, which she loves to chase down and retrieve to me. She car-drags them back to me unharmed. We started with a 22 using small "acorn" blanks moving up to larger blanks then empty 12 gauge "poppers shells", and today we used the 20 gauge with live shells. Ellie shows no notice of the shots as she is focused on the



I'm learning! I'm going to be a gun dog supreme!

Vince took advantage of a mild climate to get in some hunting exposure with Helena.
(Photo by Vince Esposito)

duck. Last week we got into grouse three different times. The first one Ellie locked up and started to shake as if it were too overwhelming for her. The second one she charged, and the third she pointed and then more shaking.

We took advantage of a warm day to go to the Great Salt Lake. Very different environment from the ponds and rivers we have been visiting in our valley. Big water, thousands of birds, boats and everything on a different scale. Ellie really turned it on and did great! We did two water sessions; one in open water requiring a little coaxing from me, but she faced her fears and did it. The other was a trek through the bull rush and frag, which she did with enthusiasm. We had a lot of fun!

Other things we did this week:

A trip to the big city to walk around downtown. That was a big challenge for her with all the noises reverberating off the tall buildings and the large glass windows reflecting our images. She settled down after about half a city block, and tackled yet another exposure.

Ellie has grown to 50 lbs. She is a FANTASTIC dog! She is very natural in the field and a great lap dog! What I mean by that is, she knows how to search and track without any formal training and every night we both end up on the couch asleep with her head

firmly planted on my lap.

She has had a good amount of wild bird exposure throughout the Fall and Winter. We finished off the last month of hunting season with chukar. On our last hunt she was finding and holding birds while I unsuccessfully tried to reach them across treacherous terrain. Of course Ellie had no trouble with the terrain and has become quite the rock climber.

I was a little concerned about water affinity because she was not prone to jumping into the icy waters of Utah. Although she did some big swims in the early Fall, she stopped swimming as the weather turned cold and did her best to avoid water from then on. I did not want to pressure her but made a point of hunting and hiking along water a few times a week. Well my concerns have all but vanished this last week. I was walking along the Provo River with Ellie and my other dog Rusty (a Aussie mix) and came to a very large, slow moving pool with a good gentle entry and a firm smooth bottom and decided I would just walk in a couple of steps and see if they would follow. They were in a very competitive mood that day and just ran past me and swam the 100 feet to the opposite bank as if they were in a race, while I just stood there in amazement. Too deep and wide for me to cross I called them back and Ellie jumped right in and swam back to me. It took a little coaxing to get Rusty to cross back because as a rule he only swims on very warm days.

I have learned with Ellie that when she is in a focused frame of mind that I can easily present new challenges and she will excel. Some days she is 100% puppy and her lack of focus makes it almost impossible to present anything new because she will fail. She does not like to fail and gets frustrated when she doesn't understand what is expected of her. On those days we just goof around and take a long walk. The key for Ellie's exposure was to get out almost every day and on those days she had that focused look in her eyes I would bring on a new challenge and take advantage of the moment. This

Hawkeye of Dutchman's Hollow—Mark Barker

Hawkeye has been featured on the WPGCA Facebook page and is also the subject of the article by owner Mark Barker on duct tape boots in this issue, so the report on him here is brief.

Well, Hawkeye is over 70 lbs for sure now. His is a powerful dog. Jim Seibel took some quick measurements when we were down in New Mexico, and he felt that Hawk was about 26" at the shoulder, and I think 27" long. During pheasant season he pointed and retrieved, even swimming a lake after a rooster. Hawk had the opportunity to hunt 3 kinds of quail for the month that we were in N.M. He has lots of drive, and flushed several coveys, but never pointed single birds. He is very outgoing, both towards adults and other dogs. He also suffers through grandkids pulling his tail. I am very pleased with him overall, and could not ask more of him for his age.

Hendrika (Rika) of Dutchman's Hollow—John Pitlo

Hendrika (Rika) of Dutchman's Hollow stands at 23.5" square at 9 months of age and

weighs in at 56 lbs. Because she was only 4 months old when the hunting season began, she has not had a great deal of exposure. Her hunting began on the opening of pheasant season in Iowa around Oct. 1 near Maringo in the company of other Griffons at the Becker farm. Since Rika had not been exposed to gunfire, I decided to walk 50-60 yds behind the other hunters to keep her behind the line of fire to get her used to gunfire. She would have none of that and was right up there with the older dogs who were searching through the cover. Birds were not too plentiful in Iowa this year and during the first several hunts, there was no shooting at all. So we had to devise another method to get her used to gunfire. The group split up and finally there were ½ dozen rooster harvested by the end of the day – so we took one of the roosters and Rika and I moved into the grass and when I threw the bird into the air – one of the hunters shot a 20 ga. (in the opposite direction) about 40 yds behind the dog and me. Rika paid no attention to the shot and retrieved the bird nicely to hand. This was done several more times; the last time the gunner was only 20 yards behind us. She paid the shooting no mind and was concentrated on getting the bird!! Although we hunted several days – there never was an opportunity to point a bird.

Several hunts in the Bellevue area produced no birds, but Rika hunted nicely – one day alone and one day with her mother – Ayla of Ancient Kennel. Her next hunting trip was to South Dakota in November. She traveled well, never got sick, and ate her food everyday with no problem. We hunted shelter belts, CRP, cattails and other cover and she did track some birds. We discovered a good way to expose Rika – every time one of the older dogs brought back a winged bird that could still run – we released it in the grass and allowed Rika to track it down and retrieve it to me. This happened several times and she did a great job of tracking and bringing the bird back. Although she hunted parts of every day for 5 days – she never pointed a bird – I don't think she really had an opportunity to do so as the birds were real runners – even the hens!!! But she got exposed to hunting with other dogs and other hunters, hearing shooting as birds got air born, and getting a snoot full of warm pheasant scent when birds were retrieved.

December was knee replacement surgery for me – also Dec. & Jan. were brutal with very cold weather and lots of snow. Ken Hurtig took Rika and his dog Jaz for runs while I was laid up. I was able to begin working on fetch with dummies in Feb. She is doing well and retrieves to hand after several laps around me – she still need quite a bit of work on that!!

She traveled to Idaho with Viv and me for the Judges Seminar and also for me to help with judging. Rika was fine with the different cover, traveled well in a kennel for 2 days coming and going, and ate her food regularly. We arrived a day early and were able to go to the test grounds and give the dogs a good run to get the kinks out. It was exciting to see her swim comfortably in the little pond at the test site. I threw the dummy for Ayla several times while Viv held Rika so she could watch and her enthusiasm built. When it was her turn – she went in with little hesitation!! She had an opportunity to track a pheasant at the end of the day on Sunday and did fairly well for a young dog in some very windy conditions.

She is very easy to live with around the house, has a pleasant personality, and is a very happy dog – her tail is always going about a mile-a-minute. Our house is cluttered with kongs, chew ropes, and other toys because she has to carry something in her mouth most of the time. She still rough-houses with her mother, and will not leave her alone when both of them are outside – sometimes we only let one out at a time so they can get their jobs done. She is not afraid of anything new and goes right up to explore it and check it out. Viv and I are very happy with her.

Hershey of Dutchman's Hollow—Jim Seibel

Hershey weighs 50 pounds and is 22.5 inches square at nine months of age. Spending late November through mid-April in New Mexico resulted in a good deal of exposure on desert quail. In the early winter Hershey learned what these crafty birds smell and look like. It was mid-January before she started to point them. Once that started on a regular basis, I was able to shoot at them and actually down a few. I will always remember the first point, flush and retrieve of a quail. Hershey pointed, two birds flushed and after nicking the first bird, I downed the second and the search was on. Hershey could not see where it landed due to the brush, however after a short search she found it and brought it to hand. From then on we were able to team up on at least one quail of each of the three species found in this part of New Mexico. First came the Scales or Blue Quail, then the Gambel and finally the prized Mearns on the last day of the season. As long as the weather stayed relatively cool, below 70 F, we were able to go for long walks everyday even after the close of the season (February 15). Rattle snakes begin to be active at about 70 F. In the morning her elder buddies, Czig Czag and Boy Blue, led the way. About an hour before sunset, Hershey got to go with me by herself for walks near the RV park at which we stayed. The quail there are fed by the residents. The park is surrounded by 3000 acres of hilly desert. This is ideal for introducing a pup to various game including quail, jack rabbits and javelina. One of her first points was on a javelina trio at about 200 yards. The smelly animals are no friend of the canine and so I gently led her away.

The only disadvantage of the New Mexico area is that most of the available water is in dug-outs which are for the range beef cattle. Too often dogs that swim in these ponds get an extreme form of diarrhea. Hershey will have to wait until we get back to Michigan in late April, that is if the ice is off the ponds by then.

I

In May we plan to have the PennHip done and expand on the early obedience training. Hershey is a natural retriever thus far. I am sure at some point she will discover that playing around with whatever she is asked to retrieve is much more fun. Until then we will just keep it rewarding to bring anything she picks up to me or Arlene. Since she is a natural retriever, I started using the word "fetch" each time I offered her something other than treats. Now Hershey will reach out for a retrieving dummy and will release it to me when I say "give." I should mention that whenever she offers me something, I say "give" before she opens her mouth. I think that is called conditioning. I always try to reward her after each successful retrieve. Now I am hiding things after I allow her to see the object and eagerly say "fetch." Hershey has found these items every time and has brought them back to me. I only do this once or twice a day and follow it up with



Finally An Exposure Day

Michigan was no place for dog training this winter. Dan Walsh and Henry at last got a chance in April.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

some play-time. All in all things are going very well. Hershey is right on schedule and appears to be a well-bonded cooperative nine-month-old pup.

Henry of Dutchman's Hollow—Dan Walsh

Personality wise, he is like a kid. He is a toy guy – loves to chew, prance and show off all of his chew toys. Fortunately, even with his love of chewing, he has not done damage to our furniture (yet)! I would say that he actually show's many of the characteristics you listed. Sometimes he acts a little timid, is bold in some situations, etc. We think he is a little immature (male),

but he is truly becoming a great pal to us, and continues to improve in all areas of obedience.

I don't have any hunting experience to talk about, as the weather has not allowed us to even go to a hunting preserve. However, I have been able to get him out on some runs in an area where snowmobiles had packed down the snow, and he loves to stretch his legs. He seems to becoming more interested in various scents he may come across, which is encouraging. As the snow goes away, I intend to get him to a preserve to at least let him see some birds. He and I are definitely behind in training, so I expect the spring will be very busy in that regard.

Physically, I think he hits on all cylinders. He is right around 25 inches at the shoulder, has a flat lying shorter coat with excellent coverage. I think the coat will continue to get a little thicker and longer. He can flat out move in the field, and loves to get out for runs. No vet visits except for normal checkups and he has a great appetite.

Generally speaking, we love Henry! Even with little quirks, he is becoming a great friend and will become a great hunting companion (provided the handler doesn't mess it up!). We are anxiously waiting for some good weather so that we can get out to work on his hunting skills.



Hershey of Dutchman's Hollow Nails a Desert Quail

A winter in Arizona and New Mexico proved to be just the ticket for giving this Michigan dog some great bird dog experience.

Photo by Jim Seibel

DESERT EXPOSURE

by
Jim Seibel

Introducing a young dog to desert hunting is not really a whole lot different from preparing him for other kinds of terrain. What is different is the cover, temperature, scenting conditions and the main species—quail.

Our pup, **Hershey of Dutchman's Hollow**, was quite young, four months, during the pheasant season in the Midwest. Hershey did actually point a pheasant and was allowed to carry around the birds that were harvested. She did well for that young age.

Once we got to the Deming, New Mexico area she was another month older, and she had about two and one-half months to get introduced to desert hunting. We have two

older dogs, **Czig-Czag of Valley House** and **Hundgaard's Boy Blue** who each have several years of experience hunting in the desert.

The first order of business was to take them all to the local vet for snake-bite vaccine. The older dogs only needed a booster, whereas Hershey needed her initial shot followed up by a booster three weeks later. The vaccine does not give total immunity to rattlesnake venom, however if given care shortly after the bite, the effects are minimal. I should add that we carry Benadryl to give to the dog immediately after a bite. You should always know where the nearest veterinarian is who has anti-venom.

While we are addressing risks, it is not uncommon to encounter a number of four legged beasts of the desert while hunting. Most dangerous is the javelina. These pig-like looking creatures (that are not related to the pig) have very tough skins that a dog cannot penetrate and have very large, sharp tusks. Javelina have been the demise of many bird dogs and especially hounds. While recently exercising our three griffs, we encoun-



Go Ahead. Rub It In!

While many of us were freezing our butts off in one of the coldest mid-west winters on record, Karen Barker gives **Hawkeye of Dutchman's Hollow** a refreshing dip in a stock tank.

Photo by Mark Barker

**Here he is Boss! Please don't miss!**

Hershey pins a bird in some brushy terrain. More great exposure for a young hunter.

Photo by Jim Seibel

tered three javelina. Fortunately, there were no young present, as that will cause the pack to attack any predator. These three took off running in three different directions with Boy Blue hot on the tail of one of them. After a chase of at least a mile with who was chasing whom changing at least once, Blue came back unharmed, only to sight another of them and take off again for a long chase that I could not see due to the hills. Needless to say, I was very concerned and then relieved when he came back the second time unharmed. This was the first time that I have had a dog pursue a javelina and I hope the last. It could have been much worse if babies had been present.

Back to the better part of desert exposure. Desert quail species vary in the southwest mostly by the elevation that provides their specific cover. They do overlap; however, the Gambel's Quail is found at the lower desert elevations up to about three thousand feet. The blue or scaled quail can be found from about two to four thousand feet of elevation. The most coveted quail is the Mearns' or Harlequin Quail. The Mearns' is only found in the southwestern part of the USA (New Mexico and Arizona) and in Mexico just south of New Mexico and Arizona. Each of these species is unique and teaches the pup different challenges. The most difficult to hunt are the scales, because they run, if it is possible, more than pheasants do. The cover is usually fairly open desert where the dog can often see them running, and he must be urged not to chase them until they flush. However, once they flush and the covey scatters, singles can be found that will hold for point.

Gambel's Quail are less likely to run; however, a dog must keep a reasonable distance so as not to push the covey out of their cover. Very frequently, the Gambel will stay in washes and areas that have enough moisture to provide adequate food. As with the Mearns', the covey will break up on the first flush and hunting singles is the most productive.

Mearns' Quail are unique in that the cover they desire is found from five to seven thousand feet of elevation. These areas almost always have a concentration of desert oak groves and tall grass. Once you have seen the terrain and its foliage, you will always be able to recognize it. Mearns' hold much tighter than the other two. That characteristic makes them ideal for a pup. Because of their unique features and the fact that they hold so well for point, the Mearns' Quail has become a favorite for hunters in the Southwest. In Arizona it is not uncommon for ranchers to lease their land to outfitters who will charge \$300 - \$500 /day/gun to hunt them. Here in New Mexico, that practice has not started because the concentration of the right cover is much less prevalent.

This year I had the pleasure of hunting with three other griffoners: Phil Lukish and Mark and Karen Barker. Phil has a pup from the Manns, **Bolt of Wolf Fork Canyon**. Mark and Karen have a littermate to Hershey, **Hawkeye of Dutchman's Hollow**.

We were careful to keep the pups separated after the initial romping was complete so that they could each concentrate on hunting. After two weeks of hunting all three quail species, the pups showed a great amount of development. If I remember correctly each pup had at least one bird of each species shot over it. The population of all three species is down due to several years of drought in all of the southwest USA. We were all grateful that we could expose the pups to as many birds as we did. Phil has hunted this area for many years, and I for about four years. Mark and Karen were in the southwest hunting for the first time. Mark, Karen and Hawkeye each learned a lot about hunting in the desert. What a great experience for all three pups. Mark can tell you when you see him just how Phil was so gracious as to place him in all the easiest terrain, while Phil and Karen took the more difficult hillsides. Maybe I have that reversed.

Not only did the pups get to hunt three different species of quail, they were exposed several different covers. By just letting the pups hunt, it was very satisfying to see their individual progress during the two weeks. Learning to use the wind to locate coveys of Gambel's in the washes and then track them on "gravel" takes a lot of natural instincts. We were always careful not to talk to the pups as they attempted to figure things out. Trying to figure out how to corner the Scales quail was another lesson that may take a while longer. I did see Hershey lock-up on Mearns' at least once and was able to retrieve one of two that I shot. It took about two weeks of hunting with Hershey by herself before I had the coveted opportunity to have a point, flush, shoot and retrieve of a Scales quail. The sequence will live in my mind forever. The point was solid, the handler made the shot and the pup retrieved to hand with her tail straight up. Am I a bit proud of her? You're damn right.

Duct Tape: A Gun Dog's Secret Weapon

by



Hawkeye's Not So Sure

One down and three to go; Mark Barker shows a completed duct-tape boot while Hawkeye of Dutchman's Hollow pleads for mercy.

Photos by Karen Barker

Mark Barker

Recently, someone saw a picture of my dog with duck-tape on his feet and asked about it. We were hunting in New Mexico, and had come upon an area of "sand burs". These are nasty, sharp pointed burs that will stop a dog cold. Fortunately, I normally have duct-tape with me while hunting, along with elastic "vet wrap", which I use to make boots for my dogs. These boots are just the ticket for this situation, and I was using them on my dog, Hawkeye, when I snapped some photos of him. You might want to try some on your griffon too.

To make these boots takes about three minutes for each foot. They last one day, and can be worn in mud, water, or snow. When hunting South Dakota pheasants, I put them on my dog because of the wiry grass and wheat stubble fields. After each days hunt, I cut them off, and throw them in the garbage. After four days of hard hunting, others dog's feet are sore, and bleeding between their toes, where the grass has worn the hide

**Step 1. Apply the vet wrap****Step 2 Apply first tape strip**

raw. In comparison, my dog's feet are in good shape, with no cuts or bleeding. Beside the fact that it makes me feel better about the dogs condition, dogs often are in and out of stock ponds, and several have come down with infections in their feet from the mud/manure. With no cuts and abrasions infections are less a concern. Besides booting all four paws, I also have used just one at a time for a bad cut, or a toe nail problem out in the field

**Step 3. Apply additional tape strips**

I have tried leather boots; the next day they are rock hard and useless. We have tried rubber boots, and the dogs have come out of the field missing one or more of them. Some dogs have stopped and chewed the rubber off. Some were very hard to get on the dogs.

Here's the way to make these boots:

Take a roll of vet wrap, cut off about an 18" piece. Take that piece and wrap it around your dog's foot. The purpose of the vet wrap is to protect the hair from getting stuck on the duct tape. Now take about 16 inches of duct tape, place lengthwise over vet wrap, on top of foot, to tip of toes, then under foot to end of vet wrap on underside of foot. (Keep foot and toes straight, it doesn't have to be tight; you don't want to inhibit movement). Now take another piece of duct tape, wrap it around side of foot, to toes, and up other



Step 4. Horizontal “sock” wrap holds boot together.

side. Now a third piece of duct tape is wrapped around the ends of the first two pieces of duct tape, near the top of the vet wrap. (Think of the 3rd piece as the top of a stocking, it hold all the pieces together so they can't slide off the foot. Now I just add a couple of layers on top of first layer, making a durable boot. Two or 3 layers on the bottom of boot will last 6 - 7 hours of tough hunting.

The first few steps my dog takes are comical, but quickly they stretch into place and the dogs forget about them. At the end of the day I cut them off outdoors, as some seeds and dirt will be trapped inside.

Some Hints:

- 1) Don't buy vet wrap at the veterinarian; try Fleet Farm, Tractor Supply, or other farm store, where it's much cheaper.
- 2) If you don't like silver feet, they have camo or black tape.
- 3) Cut all the duct tape pieces at once before starting on each foot; this makes the process quicker if your dog is fidgety when working on his feet.

Good luck,
Mark

Upcoming Events

Heartland Chapter

Spring Test

Location: Mazomanie, WI

Spring Test: April 25-27, 2014

Field Test Chairs

Kirk & Tracy Dilly

Kirk: (320) 304-2212

Tracy: (952) 240-3564

Email: kirk.dilly@mortonbuildings.com

Mailing Address:

16278 141st Ave

Osakis, MN 56360

Monthly Michigan Training Exposure Days

Location: Marshall MI

Held Monthly, April – Sept.

Contact: Jim Crouse

(614)562-1860

jcrouse01@yahoo.com

Northeast Chapter

Spring Test

Dates: May 10th & 11th (Sat & Sunday)

Hosts: Rick and Tina Molt

Field Test Chair:

Scott Craig & Laurie Connell

85 Rabbit Hill Road

Winterport, Maine, 04496

207 525-3383 (home)

207 581-2470 (work)

Allagash_stream@myfairpoint.net

See <http://www.wpgca.org> for updates.

Also www.facebook.com/griffon.fan