

SHORHAIR TALES

JAN/FEB

2009

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

THE NEW YEAR IS HERE! I BET WE ARE ALL DREAMING OF GOOD WEATHER AND WARMTH..... I KNOW WE ARE HERE, AS I TYPE THIS AT 15 BELOW WITH THE WIND CHILL OUTSIDE!!

THE DOGS ARE LYING ON THEIR BEDS COVERED IN FLEECE (AND SO IS THEIR OWNER)..... AT LEAST WE ARE THAT MUCH CLOSER TO SPRING, TO DO SOME TRAINING AND ALL THE GREAT EVENTS WE LOVE TO DO..... AND SPEAKING OF EVENTS, DON'T FORGET OUR FIRST FOR 2009, OUR MARCH SUPPORTED ENTRY.

WE ARE HOPEFULLY TRYING TO EXPAND OUR VENUE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF, AT SOME POINT, AN AGILITY TRIAL EVENT FOR THOSE WHO EITHER ALREADY COMPETE IN THIS OR WOULD LIKE TO BECOME INVOLVED. LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THAT COMMITTEE. WE NEED TO RUN SOME TRIAL EVENTS FIRST SO THAT WE CAN MEET THE CRITERIA FOR AKC..... WITH THE LIMITING OF HUNT TESTS TO ONCE A YEAR, ADDING AN EVENT SUCH AS THIS WONT SPREAD US TOO THIN.

ON THE HOME FRONT, PAT AND FRED HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE QUEST AGAINST ALL THE LEGISLATION THAT COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO ALL THE THINGS WE LOVE TO DO WITH OUR DOGS. ANYONE THAT WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR BECOME A PART OF THIS GREAT TASK, PLEASE CONTACT THEM.....IT'S WELL WORTH THE FIGHT FROM WHAT WE ARE TOLD. PLEASE READ FURTHER IN THIS ISSUE.....

WE HAVE ANOTHER GREAT ARTICLE IN THIS NEWSLETTER FROM WILMA SARNA, AND AGAIN, FOUND MYSELF REMEMBERING THOSE GREAT MOMENTS.....

ENJOY AND KEEP WARM!.....DEB



YOU REMEMBER THE PICTURE LAST ISSUE OF THE DOG WITH THE TOY AROUND HER HEAD, WELL, I RECEIVED ANOTHER!

COME TO FIND OUT, PEG THOUGHT IT WAS A PICTURE OF HER DOG ZACK, BUT TO HER SURPRISE IT WAS MY LENAH WANTING TO BE AN AGILITY DOG GOING THROUGH THE HOOP. THIS PICTURE IS ZACK WITH HIS RING. CAN YOU TELL THEY ARE

WITH GREAT SORROW

"I just received a call from Paul Fairfield who informed me that Eleanor passed away last evening. She had been struggling after a stroke. He was with her and he said she passed away very peacefully. Services will be held at their local church on Saturday. In lieu of flowers he is asking that contributions be made to a charity. "

Paul's Address is:

100 Wade Coble Drive
#252

Burlington NC 27215-
9756

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COVER PHOTO

**BARB DESJARDINS BOY
"SPENCER"
ENJOYING THE WINTER MONTHS**

**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING**

A meeting of the Katahdin German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Greater Portland was held on Sunday January 25, 2009 at the home of Peg and Lou Gagnon. In attendance were Deb Broad, Pat Russell, Fred Newcomb Peg Gagnon, Lou Gagnon, Steve Marcq, Lynn Milewski. The meeting commenced at 1pm. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as printed in the last newsletter.

President's Report: Deb commented on the terrible power outage that we all endured. All shared our experiences and want every one to know that if they are in need, if a disaster occurs again, know that we are all there for each other, just as we are for the club. Call, and help will be on the way.

Secretary's report: Accepted. Pat took last meeting minutes. Pat received note about advertising in National Specialty Show. In Denver for 2009. Costs noted. Motioned: Not at this time

Treasurer's report: Steve reported on the status of a dormant account and made the necessary changes. Insurance has been paid for the year and the GSP club of America dues are paid. The Website payment is due and could possibly be why no one could access the site....we still have not receive money back from AKC for copies we made for the Hunt test seminar. Deb will give them a call.

Dues are due: Pat will send out an e-mail to all as a reminder until we can put reminders on/and in, the newsletters.

Election of New Members:

George Richards,
Marilyn, Duncon
Brian Boucher

Show Committee: Pat reported that the premiums are out for the NE Sporting Dog Assoc. show and our supported entry March 14 in Fitchburg, Ma. She also brought a sweeps judge name to the committee for our Conway supported entry. All

agreed and she will contact them. Carroll Cty KC will also buy our rosettes again this year. She and Deb gave special thanks to member Linda Mscisz for helping them with the trophy costs. It was a most generous contribution! Thanks to Linda's involvement, we will be adding a rosette and trophy for obedience at our specialty.

Hunt Test Committee: Pat will be secretary for our fall hunt test this year. No dates have been set yet as the annual meeting for sharps has not been rescheduled yet due to the ice storm we had. Steve will check into this for us.

Team Shoot: Waiting for dates. Tabled.

Club Championship: Will try for May 30th.....

Training Days: tabled.

Rescue: Peg reported that we now have a direct link to rescue listed on our website. Peg will handle any situation that arises and/or a dog needs assistance or adoption. We thanked Peg for setting this up for us.

Website: Tabled. The site was inaccessible today so Steve will check on it and report back.

Old Business: Pat will head Nominating committee.

Lou had given us some information on a new possibility for our club at Wilderness Adventures. We all pooled together with questions for him to ask. He will report back at the next meeting. A big thank you went to the Fairfields for that wonderful story in our new "history in the breed" article series.

New Business: Deb brought up about possibly having an event per year in agility. After all the initial information all agreed to continue pursuing the possibility. We would try to eventually do an outside event. Lou may know of a facility and check on it. Steve will ask Pauline if she would be interested in organizing this. This event would give our club and members an additional avenue to pursue with our dogs. Fred and Pat headed a discussion on legislation to license kennels, charge for each dog sold or bought and various other bills that would hurt all in the sport of dogs.

Bill is coming up in legislature. They urged everyone to call your rep in Congress. Fred will forward e-mail to members present and to please let other people know about this bill.

Next meeting: Steve and Pauline's home. Allentown, NH. March 29, 2009 at 1pm
Meeting motioned to adjourned by Lou Gagnon. Seconded by Steve Marcq.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Milewski, Secretary

JOHN SARNA AND HIS GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTERS

John got his first German Shorthaired Pointer long before we were married. In the late 1950's, Gsp's were not frequently seen, especially in the Chicago area, where John grew up. When John and I married and moved into a small apartment, Shatzi had to stay home and became his younger brother's hunting partner.

We eventually moved to Connecticut, but one of our early dates had been to the All Breed bench dog show in Chicago where I fell in love with Basset Hounds. For 13 years Molly was a great floor cleaner upper when the kids dropped food. After she crossed the Rainbow Bridge, John started talking about getting another Gsp "Free to good home". The 15 month old, very energetic Gsp, Gunther, sat with his head resting on John's shoulder all the way home. It was love at first sight!

After all those years of cleaning up after a Basset Hound, that seemed to shed year-round, the rules (my rules) were: No dog in the house!! But, of course, the ad had appeared unexpectedly and a kennel run had not yet been built..... From the day he came into our home, Gunther was a perfect gentleman. He would not walk on carpeting and apologized if he bumped into you accidentally. He remained that way to his last day. So....he became a house dog.

We got in touch with Gunther's breeder, Bev Allen (now Brown) and jumped right in with a field trial, where Gunther did well in his age bracket. Then John, never having been in a show ring (but if you remember, John was not inclined to be timid), entered Gunther in a dog show at Brown University in Rhode Island. John handled, taking 4th out of 4. It was later that we found out about matches and handling classes. John was running as therapy for a mild heart attack which he suffered in November 1983, and developed a painful bone spur on his foot, so in the middle of a subsequent show, I took Gunther into the ring and WON a point! John laughed that he was now relegated to being the water boy.

We met Joanne Borland, who convinced John that he needed a female from her upcoming litter. Pepper slept in my arms all the way home... it was love at first sight! Pepper was a super true-to-the-standard female and was very patient in the show ring while I learned the technique.

She took 1st in her Am-bred class of 15 at the 1986 Nationals. At the 1995 Nationals, at the age of 11, in Veteran bitch class under judge, Pat Laurans, she did not receive a placement; however, Pepper was one of the last 5 beautiful bitches in the ring after the cut, down from 14.

Pepper had just two litters. From the first litter came Birchwood's Aim High, Shooter. A real love who finished his championship easily. He took 2nd place in his class at the 1991 Nationals. Do you remember that really cold, we Nationals in upstate New York where the mud sucked the shoes off our feet? Then there was Rosie, Birchwood's Wild Rose, who was just in it for the treats.

Then along came Spencer who also finished his championship easily. He had his first "15 minutes of fame" when he attended a "White Tie and Tails" affair. The party was covered by the Portland (Maine) newspaper and was picked up from the wire by the Paul Harvey national radio show. Mr Harvey reported, "Did you hear about the coming out party for a dog in Brunswick, Maine yesterday. A doggie debut. With a Dachshund debutant.. and an all canine cotillion. It was a formal affair. That is, white tie was optional but tails were required. John Sarna's hunting dog wore a white tie. Mr. Sarna said he hoped his hunting companions did not her about this."

Spencer's next claim to fame came at the 1995 Nationals in Pennsylvania. After coming out of each ring empty handed, John and I, a little dejectedly, said that it was going to be the first time that we were going home with no award from a National show. Spencer was entered in Best of Breed, but what are the odds there? Well, we made the first cut and sat ring-side while the rest of the males were judged. A break for lunch and then the females were judged. All of us back in the ring and Spencer made cut after cut until there were just 6 of us left; 3 males, 3 females. Judge Georgina Byrne marked her book, turned and walked up to Spencer and me and reached out to shake my hand. The crowd erupted, Spencer was leaping into the air and it was all a blur after that.

Now its just PJ and me. PJ, who never made it into the show ring but did get her Junior Hunter title along with all of our other dogs. John did all the Hunt Test handling and both of us did Obedience training; a partnership that worked out very well.

John went on to help found and become president of the Katahdin German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Greater Portland. If i can find the supporting paperwork about the club's founding, I will write about that at another time.

Wilma Sarna
Birchwood Shorthairs

SOME BREEDING BASICS

I have had some very interesting conversations with a few people that were thinking of breeding their dogs.....

A couple of most frequently asked questions were “Why look at a pedigree in depth”, “what are the differences between Inbreeding, Linebreeding etc”, “How do you find the right mate/stud dog etc”.....may I add that this is all beyond the initial “must” of health discussed.....

I would like to try to put some basic information down about some areas that may help briefly clarify some of it.....I urge anyone to add to this if they would like, since I think the basics should be covered to help those who would like to go in the right direction and have their questions answered. No matter how long we all have been associated in the sport of dogs, at least I have found, we can always learn through others, things we didn't know, which is a great deal of help. Please feel free to add your thoughts.

Looking at a pedigree, even past three and four generations can tell us what these early breeders were doing with their particular lines. It may look like a bunch of names to some but to those who have done research or have known these early dogs, to them, it is a guideline to what they may be looking to bring out in their dogs, or, on the other hand, a trait or traits, they do not want to continue with. Even though our breeding animals immediate ancestors have the greatest influence, it is possible for a dog to inherit one or more good or bad qualities from ancestors as far back as six or seven generations, and, sometimes even further than that. We can have pups that resemble the parents very much, just as they can resemble grandparents instead of the parents, and further back. I once had someone tell me that it didn't matter what was beyond the first three generations and it wasn't important to look further back. Well, I never saw good consistency in that persons breedings and found that behind the three generations, there were unrelated dogs everywhere.....maybe the reason for the inconsistancy. Just because a pedigree looks good doesn't mean it will be beneficial to your overall plan. Some do work but short term. I also heard someone say that when a person has a stud dog, they are “obligated” to use it on any bitch that comes along. YIKES! Or a bitch needs to be bred. YIKES! enough said!

In conjunction to the pedigree, we should be very familiar with, if possible, the looks of each of the dogs in it. This information can be obtained from various breed publications over the years, club yearbooks, or someone's private collection, who themselves have accumulated a wealth of information. Usually the prior breeders of our dogs have a lot of this information or know where it can be obtained. Pictures are worth a thousand words.....where have we all heard that before?!..... It allows us to see the traits that we want or do not want. It also give us, hopefully, an “eye” for what we are seeing. Without an eye, we can not correctly assess what we actually tried to do or if we really got what we set out to do. We also must not be “kennel blind”. Not wanting to admit that this may not be what we were looking for or what we really wanted to breed in the first place. We all think each dog is wonderful, but in reality, there are no perfect dogs and there is always “something” we would change or wanted differently. That should be the first thing we work on, with ourselves, to be able to be true to ourselves for the betterment of the breed. There are many “mentors” in all breeds. Use their knowledge! you won't regret it.....and, all ribbons aside, look at the dog.....I saw a dog at 8 wks old and knew he would be one of the great ones. I said then that I would breed to this dog as an adult, if the owner would allow. Well, sure enough, he was one of our great ones, And yes, I was able to use him. He was everything I admired in the breed over the years from what I was seeing in my research. His record proved me right again.

In an **Open breeding**, a pup can inherit as much as 62 or more different genetic qualities.

Unless the genetics in each of these 62 dogs is high quality and pure, the results are likely to be a mix of all and bearing little resemblance to any one particular ancestor.

PEDIGREES
PICTURES
RESEARCH
ASK BREED MENTORS

TWO DIFFERENT DOCTORS' OFFICES

BOY, IF THIS DOESN'T HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT DOES!

TWO PATIENTS LIMP INTO TWO DIFFERENT MEDICAL CLINICS WITH THE SAME COMPLAINT. BOTH HAVE TROUBLE WALKING AND APPEAR TO REQUIRE A HIP REPLACEMENT.

THE FIRST PATIENT IS EXAMINED WITHIN THE HOUR, IS X-RAYED THE SAME DAY AND HAS A TIME BOOKED FOR SURGERY THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

THE SECOND SEES HIS FAMILY DOCTOR AFTER WAITING 3 WEEKS FOR AN APPOINTMENT, THEN WAITS 8 WEEKS TO SEE A SPECIALIST, THEN GETS AN X-RAY, WHICH ISN'T REVIEWED FOR ANOTHER WEEK AND FINALLY HAS HIS SURGERY SCHEDULED FOR 6 MONTHS FROM THEN.

WHY THE DIFFERENT TREATMENT FOR THE TWO PATIENTS?

The FIRST is a Golden Retriever.

The SECOND is a Senior Citizen.

Next time take me to a vet !

We are always trying to improve on what we have. To improve quality, type, traits etc.....so in this case most will line breed or in-breed their dogs on what they feel they are looking for.

Inbreeding is the breeding of individuals that are separated in a pedigree no more than one generation. Brother to sister, mother to son, sire to daughter or half brother to half sister. This concentrates a gene pool of one or more particular individuals. One should also have read a good book on genetics to know how all this will likely come together. You could be producing a concentration of good qualities in some, as well as, poor qualities in others. Some also use this to expose the faulty recessives, then making it possible to dispose or eliminate them from the breeding stock. This is certainly not the route for those who are faint at heart. Do your home work! Suitable animals need to be used to begin with in this practice. Some issues that could come forward include, but are not limited to, ear set, tail set, eye color, bone type, overshot or undershot bite, lack of chest along with other structural areas, and some health issues that need to be present in quantity on both sides.

Linebreeding, favored by most of the serious breeders, find it is less drastic than inbreeding and can take longer to establish your goals. This is the mating of dogs closely related to a common ancestor, but are little, if at all, related to each other. A linebred pedigree will have a common ancestor or more to the sire and dam. Accumulating the genetics of the one or more outstanding ancestors is what will express itself in your lines. If linebreeding is not continued, you can reduce the importance of these outstanding individuals in three to four generations. Continuing to linebreed can eventually show itself in excess of the sire and dam. Again, providing the animals are truly examples of their breed. Poor specimens can be produced just as easily if not selecting ancestors with these outstanding qualities and genetics. So when linebreeding, remember, this is not inbreeding so you will not be breeding to the dog itself technically. It will be like breeding to the uncle etc (shown multiple times) in that pedigree with those outstanding quality and genetics. A quote that will often come up will be 'Let the sire of the puppy be the grandsire of the dam on the dam's side'. Counting the times a dog's name is repeated in a pedigree will give us an idea which ancestor made the greatest contribution to the pup. Another tool used by experienced breeders is the breeding coefficient of a potential pup. You might want to ask someone with a pedigree database if they would run that potential breeding through their pedigree program to see what you would be looking at, as in the case of breeding cousins.....or.....breeding nephew to aunt or reversing the role with uncle to niece.

Outbreeding is basically the lack of.....or used when there is lack of knowledge or purpose. A serious breeder puts a lot of cost and time into the end result, working constantly at upgrading in all areas. With this practice, levels of quality is inferior. Having the same breed doesn't mean its going to work out right.

Outcrossing is breeding with no common ancestors and is usually used by those who would like to introduce a more desirable quality, as in choosing a prepotent sire with outstanding qualities, top producer genetically able to pass this on in a high dose. This has now introduced unknown qualities and the possibility of unwanted genetics as well as the desirable. Correctly grading the litter and keeping the best will hopefully express themselves in future generations, while weeding out the rest. We may be introducing the quality we seek but in turn we may be introducing a weakness we didn't count on. So breeding two like dogs, or quality to quality doesn't necessarily make the breeding successful. Nor does trying to fix long legs by breeding to short legs and so on.

Another good way to achieve an "eye" for type, movement, standard, is to sit ring side (or field side). Watch what each dog is doing. How does it move, how does it free stand, where does it all come together. Would you say it fits the breed type. Is any of what you see a direction you are looking to go in. A video recording comes in handy to be able to look back, at your leisure, to see if you can pick out what you think is what you eventually want to achieve, or not. I have over 300 videos covering over 25 years that I am currently converting to DVD and am still gaining a wealth of information from them.....weekly video taping or photographing each individual in a litter will give you a world of knowledge in selection as well as looking back when doing current potential breedings. Feel free to ask anyone that has been in the sport for many years what their thoughts are. Just as in gathering training information and tips, you should pool it all together and study what you think will work for you and your dogs.....everyone will be most helpful in these areas as well. No one path or situation will work for each dog or each line, just as no one training tip works for all. And remember, we all have our opinions.....doesn't necessarily mean its right or wrong.

I would like to introduce a question and answer column to add to the newsletter. Those who have particular questions on any area could post them here and hopefully get response from readers in those areas, and again post in the next issues for all to benefit from. If you would like to remain anonymous, that is fine. At least we could all increase our knowledge by others experiences or thoughts.

Just a reminder that your Katahdin dues are due by the end of February. A single membership is \$20 for a year and \$50 for three years. A family membership is \$30 for one year and \$75 for three years. Please send your dues to:

**Lynn Milewski, Secretary
44 Gould Farm Road
Hiram, ME 04041**

LEGISLATION REPORT FROM PAT RUSSELL AND FRED NEWCOMB

Two pieces of dog related legislation have recently been introduced into the NH House of Representatives. They are:

* HB 220 - this bill would allow the seizure of dogs from your home, whether you are home or not, on an unsubstantiated charge of abuse. In order to begin to defend yourself, a \$2,000 bond must be posted, Even if the charges are proved to be false, there is no guarantee that you will get your dog or money back.

* HB 337 - This bill would prevent a pet owner from selling more than one dog per year without a temporary license, which expires after 60 days. No more than two temporary licenses may be issued in a year. It exempts commercial kennels. This would stand in the way of rescue organizations and responsible breeders re-homing dogs that have been returned to them, as well as breeders who have a litter and take their time in finding responsible homes for their puppies.

PETA and the HSUS are in support of this legislation, and similar legislation has been introduced in numerous states across the country. The stated concerns of PETA and HSUS are animal abuse and puppy mills. All of us share those concerns, but the proposed legislation does not solve the problem. Fred Newcomb has been involved with a number of local breeders, and has gone to the hearings at the State House in Concord to plead the case of responsible breeders. Many people have written letters to their representatives urging them to vote against this legislation. HB 220 has gone to Committee with a recommendation that it be put aside on the basis that it is inefficient to expedite. That is good news. HB 337 has gone to sub-committee for consideration. The chairman requested that the sponsor of HB 337 withdraw the bill, due to the overwhelming response against it, but the sponsor would not agree. We will be continuing to fight this, as well as others that may arise.

Recent Update

the legislation requiring breeders licenses was defeated, thanks to Fred, DOGS, and many others. We are now fighting the legislation against unauthorized seizing of your dog on the report of possible abuse. Hope we do as well with this one!

Don't forget your GSP's titles earned during 2007. Was Fido a JH, an SH or MH? How about a NAVHDA Prize? Agility titles? Obedience Titles? Therapy Dog? Certified Couch Potato? there is a cut off date to place the engraving order:
email steve at spmarcq@comcast.net

SHOW SCHEDULE

3/14 - 3/15 NE Sporting Dog Assoc
Fitchburg, MA
Katahdin GSP supported entry
Nutmeg GSP supported entry
4/3 - 4/4 Trap Falls/Troy KC
Springfield, MA
4/10- 4/12 RI Kennel Club/Providence Cty
Lincoln, RI
4/17-4/19 Springfield Ma, Cluster
4/25 - 4/26 South Cty KC, Lincoln, RI
5/2-5/3 Acton, ME
5/8-5/9 N. Stonington, CT
5/10 Woodstock, CT
5/16-5/17 Scarborough, ME
5/22-5/24 Freehold, NJ Cluster
6/6 Norwalk, CT
6/12-14 Topsfield, Ma cluster

FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.INFODOG.COM
FIELD EVENT SCHEDULES PENDING

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPECIALTY
TROPHY FUND BY MAKING A PLEDGE FOR
ONE OF THE PLACEMENTS.
NEW SITE & DATE/AUG. 2, 2009 ALONG
WITH CHESHIRE KC IN KEENE, NH
CONTACT PAT AT prussellpr@yahoo.com**

My apologies to Pat for missing this picture with her brag. It is truly an awesome picture of her and Georgia finishing her title at the Tartan Gorden Setter club hunt test.....

And that wonderful finishing Rosetter that they give!!
I want one of those hats Pat!



Don't Forget....

Start composing those stories
of your history with the breed
or memorable moments
for upcoming newsletters!

**Your Katahdin dues are due by the
end of February.**

FOR UPDATES, NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS
AND PUPS AVAILABLE, PLEASE VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT WWW.KATAHDINGSP.ORG



KATAHDIN GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB
OF GREATER PORTLAND

Deb Broad - Editor
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**NEWSLETTER
OF THE
KATAHDIN GSP CLUB OF GREATER
PORTLAND**

