

SHORTHAIK TALES

NOV/DEC

2009

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

A YEAR AGO THIS MONTH, WE WERE ALL SPENDING TIME WONDERING IF THE ELECTRICITY WOULD EVER COME BACK ON.....NOT TO BRING BACK BAD MEMORIES, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, TO BRING BACK THE GOOD MEMORIES OF GOOD FRIENDSHIPS, A HELPING HAND AND A WARM GSP OR TWO (OR MORE).

WE SHARE THESE THOUGHTS WITH OUR WONDERFUL AND SUCCESSFUL CLUB.....OUR LAST MEETING WAS ATTEST TO THAT. THERE WAS A GREAT ATTENDANCE WITH MANY MORE OUTSTANDING IDEAS FOR FUTURE EVENTS AND PROJECTS. JULIE SMITH OFFERED TO EXPAND OUR KNOWLEDGE AND VENUES OF COMPETITION TO RALLY. SHE GAVE US AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS INVOLVED AND OFFERED TO HAVE US GET TOGETHER WITH HER TO GO OVER THE RULES AND TRAIN FOR THIS EVENT. I URGE ANYONE WANTING TO JOIN US, TO CONTACT ME SO THAT WE CAN PLAN A TIME AND PLACE TO DO THIS. SHE ALREADY GOT A GOOD SHOW OF HANDS AT THE MEETING.....SHE WILL ALSO FOLLOW UP WITH AN ARTICLE FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE WANTING MORE INFORMATION IN ADVANCE.....THANK YOU JULIE!

THERE ARE SEVERAL OUTSTANDING ARTICLES IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE. ANOTHER WONDERFUL, INFORMATIVE ADVENTURE FROM PAUL FAIRFIELD, AND ONE FROM GERRY NEWCOMBE ON A VISIT WITH SOME OF THE OLD MASTERS OF GSP'S.A TRULY VALUABLE PIECE OF HISTORY! I AM SURE OUR AUTHORS WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU WITH ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES! ENJOY! DEB.....

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I told you I would get a picture of the elusive Gerry Newcombe and his wonderful boy Elisha

The winners of the Intermediate Veteran Club Championship class

This is one heck of a water retrieving, hunting, showing team!

**NESGA SHOWS
MARCH 20-21,
2010
FITCHBURG, MA**

Don't forget that our club will be supporting the entry on Saturday March 20th

and on Sunday

supported by

Nutmeg GSP club

join us for a weekend of fun!

CHRISTMAS FURKIDS FROM THE O'NEAL FAMILY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

A meeting of the Katahdin German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Greater Portland was held on Sunday November 29, 2009 at the home of Deb and Steve Broad. A fabulous lunch was served. In attendance were Deb Broad, Peg Gagnon, Lou Gagnon, Steve Marcq, Julie Smith, Scott Neal and Pat Russell. The meeting commenced at 2:00 PM.

President's Report: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as printed in the last newsletter. They are also on the Internet. Deb thanked all the club members for their participation in the many different events the club held during 2009. Without member participation it can't be done. We'll take the winter off to plan for next year.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary was unable to attend.

Treasurer's Report: Steve reported on the account balance and a few bills that remain to be paid. .

New Members: None presented.

Show Committee: Pat reported that we are all set for the NESGA in March. We are also up-to-date on the Specialty we will be holding with Cheshire County. In addition, we plan on doing a supported entry with Carroll County.

Hunt Test Committee: Steve will be drawing our dates at the upcoming Heldca meeting. We are considering running a hunt test with another club. There was a discussion of the number of entries in the past year at local hunt tests and the fact that other clubs cancelled tests due to small entries.

Club Championship: We will try to hold it on the same weekend as this year.

Team Shoot: There was a discussion on whether we should attempt to hold a Team Shoot next year, given the fact that it was cancelled due to lack of entries.

Training: We can train at Wilderness Adventures during the

summer or at Sharpes. Some events will be scheduled.

Rescue: Rescue will have a large booth at the Providence shows (formerly the Boston shows).

Legislative Update: Pat gave a brief legislative update. NH is quiet now, but our neighboring states are still having issues. She discussed an article that succinctly pointed out the difference between the HSUS and the SPCA: The Humane Society is concerned about animal rights, whereas the SPCA is concerned about animal welfare. She also discussed the investigative practices of the HSUS and the rights of dog owners. .

New Business:

- Julie gave a brief discussion and description of Rally. We are considering a possible informal Rally Class.

Next meeting will be held at 9:00 AM, Saturday January 30, 2010 at Scott Neal and Kate Van Francis' home.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Russell, Acting Secretary

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to everyone at Katahdin
From
Fred, Louise
Chloe and Max
Shaw



WENTWORTH KENNEL'S PEARL GIRL AN INCIDENT

BY PAUL FAIRFIELD

I opened my mail yesterday and out dropped a white slip of paper with the words: "Would you have another article for us? Would love to hear more of your past with GSP's. Best Deb"

Deb is the fine editor of "Shorthair". It is probably the BEST shorthair monthly in the country! That's a challenge!

I gave some thought but couldn't come up with an incident so i packed up to bed.

At 3:30 a.m. I awoke with a start! An incident with our fine young pointer "Lake Wentworth's Pearl Girl" - teach her human scent tracking. In the 80's, this was a new concept, to teach dogs the art of tracking for police work, finding lost children, as well as, adults, and, best of all, using dogs for such skilled purposes. I had been reading of tracking with dogs and discussing it with Lisa DeForest, as she lived close to us in New Durham, NH. She is a breeder of other hunting dogs, GSP's and also a pet pig and some horses! This was in the 80's and we had to look forward to new work with our dogs. Tracking was voted upon!

We needed vacant pasture lands and hayfields that were not in use for long periods of time. Hayfields were handy and so were pastures and we sought permission from the owners. They were giving us use up until hunting season.

American Kennel Club had a paperback book and we devoured it. Large areas of hayfields with little or no humans walking on them were the major need. We had this. Next were dogs with some ability of learning quickly, GSP's, of course. A twenty food lead, lots of good weather, and plenty of time daily. Yes, we were retired. Eleanor was a golfer and i was a dog lover.

Pearl Girl, our great GSP, answered all of the dogs needs while Lisa also matched a pup that she wanted to train. We set up a schedule and a curriculum and began. Three sessions a week at three to four hours each was not too much. "Recess" was offered to the dogs as needed. The enjoyed it. Maps of the fields were made and a schedule of teaching was given. A great deal of time of working

our leads and watching for lack of interest was important. Dog cookies!

Using ourselves as human scent givers, our first action was to make long straight lines walking up and down the field several times using puppy cookies on the lines at spaces of five yards apart as "bait" to follow and find the next prize! Many repetitions up and down the line were used at each training until the dogs "learned" to use the scent that we left in making the lines became familiar to them.

Slowly, we lengthened the space between cookies to the beginning and end of the line. Then, we made a circle and stopped the cookies and depended upon the dogs to follow our scent. At the beginning, we made use of used clothing for starting purposes and had the dogs play with an old sweater for instance. This gave the dogs confidence in "following the smell-scent"!

Finally, dropping down leather gloves, wallets, shoes, clothing - any item that has human scent of the "person lost", and then retrieving it to the teacher on the other end of the lead. After all this, have another lead holder handle the dog and have him set the trail, place cookies, change distances, etc. Handle the dog on a short course so the dog gets used to different scents and different handling. Change off frequently.

Work with the dog on proper retrieving when the dog finds an article placed on the track, call the dog back and gently "take" the dog's find. Then, continue to offer "praises". This is not a quick procedure. Patience and repetition gives you the satisfaction that the dog is learning.

We entered many scent activities in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Maine, Vermont, and others. Finally, we entered the "Canadian International Human Scent Championship" - near Montreal!

Dogs from the United States and Canada were tested. The course was long and very interesting. The time factor, mistakes in learning the course, poor retrieving, exhaustion, etc. caused disqualification until five dogs were finalists. Pearl Girl was one of the five. When the finals were completed and Pearl Girl was named Champion, we all nearly collapsed with joy!

I fully recommend teaching a dog human scent tracking. Your dogs will like it. There must be additional new books that contain this teaching information. **Go For It!**

THE HUNT IN AUSTRIA

BY GERALD NEWCOMBE

While in the armed forces, Gerry got to visit Austria and participate in a hunt with GSP's. He had told me the story while at a hunt test and, I was so amazed with this opportunity he experienced, that I asked him to share some of it with all of us.....How exciting this must have been!



This is a picture of 3 Jagers who take care of a certain areas of the country, which is in their area, and determine how many birds can be harvested.



Lunch time at the Jaut - Lunch is brought out to the field. Here there are the Jagers, shooters, beaters, picker-uppers and dog men. The wagon shown is moved around and taken to be used to pick up the harvested game.



A private hunt- The Jager was a German Colonel



See the grain fields in the background that are hunted.



The areas mostly hunted were within 10 to 15 miles of Salzburg Austria. This was a cut of field where they build fences and put the hay up to dry.

ONCE A YEAR IN SMALL DORFS (OR VILLAGES) THEY HAVE A HUNT TO HARVEST SO MANY OF VARIOUS SPECIES



We hunted on land that was farmed, and there were a lot of Hungarian Partridge in large flocks like quail. The person in the middle runs the dog(s) and carries the game.



On a driven hunt, they tag the birds each has shot and you either buy them or the land owner takes them to market, and they are sold as you see them.



YOU CAN SEE THE ROTATION OF CROPS AND A LITTLE DIFFERENT WAY THE



THE ABOVE TWO PICTURES ARE SOME OF THE FIELDS AND BACKGROUND WHILE ON PRIVATE HUNTS.



DIFFERENT AREAS OF HUNTS



LEAVING THE OUTSKIRTS OF SALZBURG FOR A SMALL DRIVE IN THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE

BRAGS

Louise Shaw and Frederic Doctoroff's Bittersweet Farm's **Max** earned his APDT rally RL3 and ARCH rally Championship in October and on November 1st earned his CD and RE in Franklin MA. And also earned his ARCHX, RL1X & RL2X Championships at the Keene MHS APDT Rally Trial December 19, 2009.

(I asked Louise to give us more information on these titles so that members could see what other venues there are out there to compete in: Very impressive!)and She wrote:

These championships are in APDT Rally. ARCHX. is 15 double Q's at levels 1 B & 2 B with scores of 195 or more plus 100 points or more. RL1X 10 Q's at Level 1B and RL2X is 10 Q's at level 2B.

APDT = Association of Pet Dog Trainers (An association similar to AKC but, allows mixed breed dogs.)
Rally obedience = (Similar to AKC Rally Obedience but more stations and stricter rules) Rally Obedience = Dog and Handler navigate numbered signs with different obedience exercises. Qualifying score = 170, highest score possible 210. ARCHX Rally Championship = 15 double Qs at levels 1 & 2 with scores of 195 or higher plus 100 points.

From **Deb and Steve Broad (Bearmt)**

Our new star "**Ava**" Bear Mtns Sierra High Frequency, at her first show at 6 months old, took a 5pt major Specialty reserve win at the Mayflower Specialty December 5th in RI. It was quite the challenge for me to keep "the princess's" crown on straight after that achievement! She made sure I followed "her lead" the whole time. She is our Louie's sister by Ch Bear Mtns Blueridge Illusion, JH "Boomer", out of "Lulu" Ch Bear Mtn Sierra Hi-Resolution, JH.



A fun photo vs. a win photo.... **Jammer** didn't win (but boy did he get a second and third look on Sunday) but he had a GREAT time.....Am Can CH BIS CFC CH HHH Jam On The Brakes had a GREAT time at the Mayflower Specialty shows in Rhode Island. It was a long boring summer taking care of his mom, it got MUCH better during hunting season and then, his friend and pro handler Melanie Primeau came down from Canada for the RI shows, his first shows since May. **Jammer** was SO happy to see her he went right straight up in the air in the ring barking "I WUV YOU MELANIE" HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND ALL THE BEST IN 2010 FROM HEDGEHOG HILL



Steve Marcq "hooking" Julie Smith into volunteering at the last meeting.....before she got out of the door!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/15,16,17,18 - Fitchburg, Ma Cluster shows
2/15 & 16 - Westminster KC shows
2/20 & 21 - Hartford, CT
3/20 & 21 - NESGA show cluster/supported entries
4/9, 10, 11 - Springfield, Ma cluster shows
4/17 & 18 - Providence and RI KC, Lincoln, RI
4/24 & 25 - Springfield, Ma show cluster
for more info visit www.infodog.com

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

Don't Forget....
Start composing those stories of your history with the breed or memorable moments for upcoming newsletters!



**KATAHDIN GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB
OF GREATER PORTLAND**

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TO:

**NEWSLETTER
OF THE
KATAHDIN GSP CLUB OF GREATER
PORTLAND**

