

OTTAWA VALLEY



NAVHDA

Your Family Fun Chapter

Newsletter

Issue 01/12

21 April 2012

President's Message

Well it has taken a while for this to come to fruition but its finally here, our fist OV NAVHDA newsletter. Much thanks needs to go out to our Vice President Marc Berube for stepping up to the plate and making this happen. Putting together a chapter newsletter is no easy task, though we hope that all will contribute to make this *your* newsletter!

Spring has arrived and the dogs are starting to go stir crazy pointing robins in the backyard. Early spring (prior to Turkey season) is a great time to work off some that winter rust that has settle on both handle and dog alike. The annual woodcock spring migration is in full swing and what better (and free) way to bring your pup back to where they left off last Fall. Woodcock are a fantastic bird to run your young pup or rusty ol'pointer on, woodcock will sit tight until exploding into flight at the last second, allowing a young dog to work the scent cone and establish a solid point. Their abundance during this time of year allows you to cover a reasonably small amount of habitat while rewarding the dog with several bird contacts, not to mention providing you with a good idea where to find for these funny looking birds in future hunting seasons.

Back to business; chapter executives have been busy this spring, Murray has been diligently developing trails through his wood lot so that UT dogs can be run in the trees simulating a more realistic Eastern Ontario



What the dog saw

Training!

Training Dates:

- 22 April – Murray Kemp's
- 20 May – Murray Kemp's
- 17 June – Martha Imperato and Mark Gawron's (USA, TBC)
- 22 July – Peter McCooye's
- 19 August – Peter McCooye's
- September – TBC
- 25 November – Murray Kemp's

President's Message (cont'd)

hunting scenario. Pascale is already planning our August test and securing the judges that will be required. As I am writing this my fiance Erin is driving us back from Southern Ontario after Easter festivities with the family, on our way back we'll be stopping at what we've dubbed "the funny farm" to pick up a pile of ducks and other training birds for the season. Our first training day is not far off now!

Speaking of training we are still working on lining up a weekend clinic with a regional pro trainer. Ideally this will happen earlier in the year than later but will dependent of the availability of pros in the area. Stay tuned as emails will be sent to notify members once we have set a date, space will be limited.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our first training day, not to mention seeing all those spring puppies out for their first taste of feathers!

Happy Training,

Drew Paulusse



Ruby!

Ruby (Feu Follett's Rubi Sunset), two years old, is the first Griffon for Cheryl & Steve Rowland of Brownsburg-Chatham, Quebec. Cheryl & Steve are both semi-retired and their children are grown-ups now. Two years ago, they would never have imagined what an impact that Ruby would have on their lives.

In 2011, Ruby obtained a perfect score of 112 on her natural ability test. Cheryl & Steve hope that she will do as well this year with her UPT.

Both Cheryl & Steve participate actively in Ruby's training. Although they certainly make some mistakes because this is their first versatile hunting dog, Ruby is so willing and easy to train that she makes them look good.

Ruby loves to hunt and we can see her here with her first Canada goose in 2011. She goes everywhere with Steve and she loves to ride on the ATV, on the snowmobile and in the canoe.

Rudy



Bandit



My first GSP from Le'Champmarais Kennels in Canada. NAVHDA Registered his call name fits like a glove "Bandit".

He has amazed me with his natural abilities. At 6 months, Bandit took Prize 1; 112 points on his Natural Ability Test first try. This was the first versatile hunting dog I trained, and what a great sense of pride knowing I succeeded. All the credit goes to Pascale and Ray for breeding to only the strongest bloodline, temperament and trainability. It's amazing to see the prey drive Bandit has and grows stronger with age and experience!!!!

Here is a picture of two pheasants Bandit tracked and retrieved on his NA test.

Stefano Marulli, Boston, Massachusetts



Next Chapter Calendars

Here is a quick update on our plans for next year's Chapter calendars. Remember that these are meant to raise funds and showcase our dogs.

Next year's club calendar will offer three types of pages:

1. Typical business sponsors as we did in the past;
2. A Vanity page; and
3. A Memorial page.

The Vanity page is simply a member-purchased space in the calendar to showcase their dog(s). The price will be \$100 and all funds will go towards the cost of production of the calendar.

The Memorial page will include pictures from club members who wish to "toast their absent friends". These friends may be of the two or four legged kind. The cost is also \$100.

This year, our objective is to have calendars printed and ready for sale in September. This will allow us to sell calendars at the Carp Sportsman Show.

Please direct your questions to Brian Hargreaves.

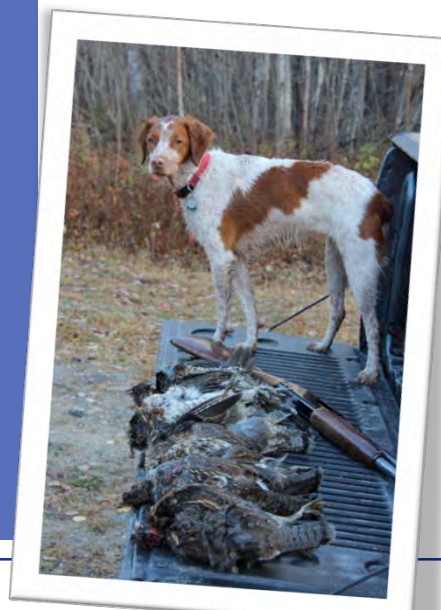
Size Doesn't Matter

Chelsea, my 2.5 year old Brittany, is quite the character. Weighing in at 27 lbs, one could call her the runt of the litter. It is still a mystery as to where the nearly three cups of kibble she eats go every day, but it sure does a good job at giving her energy.

Flying back from St John, NB, where I picked Chelsea up from StationOne Kennel one snowy January day, I didn't quite understand how this little creature with ears longer than her face would impact one's life. Her in-your-face attitude at getting one's attention ensures that her high maintenance little life is filled with excitement. She has trained her first-time dog owner well thus far.

I'll admit that at first, I was worried that her size would be a problem. Perhaps I thought that the amount of muscular mass had a direct impact on a dog's abilities as a versatile hunting dog. Over the years, however, she proved that *I* had more of an issue with her size than she did. Sure a goose or other large bird won't easily be picked up by Chelsea, but let me tell you that she is a mean grouse retriever. Luckily for me, that happens to be my food of choice. Pictured above is Chelsea surrounded by her friends. To the right is the catch of the day last Fall.

Marc Berube, Vice President and Beginner Handler



Training Day Courtesy Tips

The Club relies on very generous members that share their property with the club on training days to provide our dogs with an opportunity to do field work. For those that are new to the club, here are a few tips to keep everyone happy during the training day and ensure the Club doesn't overstay its welcome on borrowed land.

-RSVP your attendance well in advance.

-Arrive on time with money in hand to pay for the training day (and birds you ordered). Be available for the morning briefing by the Staff.

-If a leash-free area is provided and approved by the property owner, only leave your dog run around freely in this area. Aggressiveness towards other dogs should not be tolerated. Once the training begins, leash your dogs and try not to distract dogs that are being handled/trained.

-Pick up after your dogs.

-Most training days serve a pot-luck style lunch. Bring something to share. If the item you brought needs preparation, you are responsible to get it ready. Bring a serving spoon if necessary. Label your dishes.

-Drinking alcohol is not permitted until all training requiring firearms is completed (even if you are not handling a gun).

-Leave the property as clean/tidy as it was when you showed up.

-Volunteer to place and pick up training aids.

-If you want to assist in any way, advise the Staff. And most of all, have fun and learn!

The OV NAVHDA Team

Ottawa

Do you have great ideas to add to the newsletter? Do you want to contribute to a news column that would be published with every newsletter? Do you have stories, pictures, knowledge or anything to share with your Chapter friends? If so, please send your ideas and comments to the Vice President, Marc Berube (marcpaulberube@gmail.com)

Some ideas that have been expressed and may be featured soon are:

-A column on field medicine -A column describing birds

-A column on training tips



“After a field test, a handler excitedly reported that he got a Prize I. But, didn't the dog do most of the work?” - Anonymous