

MHSA News

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The Only American Kennel Club Licensed All Spaniel Hunting Dog Club

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Officers & Board of Directors



From the President ...

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First, I heartfelt thank you to Rachel Samsel, our newsletter editor. I can already tell she is the right person for the job because I just received my second reminder from her that my monthly remarks from the President are late. Without Rachel and all the other volunteers, our club would have no activities for members. Thank you all.

Turning to the dogs, I've just returned from North Dakota Cocker trial with no placements but with memories of a great time spent with friends and many new training ideas. Ribbons are not the reason most of us run dogs. Instead we train for and attend trials, agility competitions, tracking events and hunt tests to learn from each new training trick and methods. We do so because we love the remarkable working partnership that humans and dogs can achieve and treasure that partnership most when it is effortless and efficient. This effortlessness comes with great effort: time and thought expended in working with our dogs.

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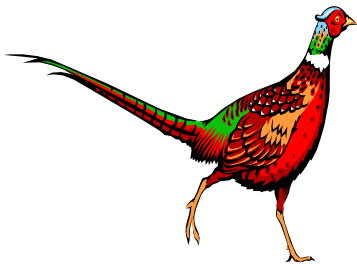
Page 10: Upcoming Events

If you have ever doubted the amount of time spent by field trial winners working with their dogs, go spend a few days training with Tom Ness, Paul McGagh, Tony Roettger, Jason Givens, Kevin Rutherford or any of the many talented trainers. You will be amazed by the time spent and the knowledge applied, all of which is available for you to absorb by spending time watching them train their dogs or yours! If, like me, you prefer to train your own dog, some will be willing to spend time training you! Similar opportunities are available for agility and tracking aficionados.

Tomorrow it all starts again, with the Minnesota Cocker Trial, at which I hope I will have seen many of you by the time you read this. If not, I'm sure I'll see you at the following weekend's Hunt Test!

Best,
Dick Bend

Don't Forget !!



The Spring Hunt Test will be May 10th and 11th. Bethann Roettger will be Chairing this event. If anyone is interesting in helping please contact her. We are still in need of bird planters.... We will train in anyone interested as well!

Everyone is encouraged to come out and watch some great dog work and enjoy the barbecue Saturday after the test is completed. Questions: contact Bethann Roettger at broettger@isp.com or 651-214-8301.

Hello, my name is Rachel Samsel and I am taking over for Shirley putting the newsletter together. If anyone has items they would like to include in the newsletter please email them to me at samsel2@frontiernet.net. I will attend as many activities as I can to get photos and information to put in the newsletter but I will need help on Saturday activities as my work schedule makes me unavailable. Thanks, Rachel

By Jon Pidde

Obedience and the Hunting Dog

When you attend a Field Trial or a Hunt Test you will see a lot of well-trained dogs. Field trial dogs and Master Hunter dogs have a lot of things in common. One of the first things that you might notice is that the dogs at this level seem so calm while waiting there turn. One thing that these dogs have been taught is that they need to wait their turn. When the handler and their dog are following the gallery, you can see some well behaved dogs that are not dragging their handlers around the fields.

This month I will address Heel means Heel. When you are out hunting with your dog there are always reasons to bring your dog to heel. You might be in a location where you must walk along a road for a while. You might run into some of nature's less agreeable animals like skunks or porcupines and you want your dog with you as you make a detour. Also, there is a safety factor. If you are carrying a gun, it is safer to have your dog heeling with you than it is to have your dog dragging you around. Or maybe you want your dog to sit calmly by your side and keep his nose out of the way while you get rid of that last cup of coffee. These are all good reasons to teach your dog to heel.

What you want is for your dog to walk with you on your left side and sit on your left side when you stop walking. To achieve this it will take some time and lots of repetitions. I take my dog for a walk a few times each week. I will heel for a while and then release my dog and let him roam at the end of his leash. I never require my dog to heel all of the time or even more than 10% of the time. But, when I tell my dog to heel I expect him to do it properly. My goal is for my dog to heel with no leash through farmers' yards and if necessary for a few minutes around some of nature's less agreeable animals.

I start all obedience in my house on leash. When you start you should have your dog sitting on your left side facing the same way you are. Say heel and start walking. Your dog should get up and move with you. To begin you might have to give a small tug on the leash to get your dog moving. Encourage your dog to keep up by patting your leg and/or speaking in an upbeat voice, hurry hurry, let's go, faster faster. After a few steps stop and say sit. With a little upward pressure on the leash, with the leash in your right hand, reach down with your left hand and steer your dog's rear end down into a sit at your side. When your dog sits, tell him what a good dog he is. You can reward your dog with praise, a treat or both. (I use praise but both will work.) You will have to repeat this process a number of times until your dog learns what you want him to do. In a couple of days you should have your dog sitting automatically when you stop. As soon as possible you can stop saying sit and stop steering your dog into the sit.

In a short time, when you say heel your dog will start with you and sit when you stop. Make sure that your dog knows when he is right with plenty of praise and/or treats. Now it is time to take your dog to lots of different places. Start with your neighborhood. You can have your dog heel whenever you pass another person or dog. These can be good distractions. One key to getting a good heeling dog is to keep your dogs attention. Young dogs have a tendency to show signs of attention deficit disorder. To cure your dogs ADD you must continue to surprise your dog. While heeling, if your dog looks away it is the perfect opportunity to turn and go the other direction. A small tug on the leash that surprises your dog can be effective in teaching your dog to pay attention to his job of heeling. When your dog is “surprised” with a tug on the leash make sure that when he catches up he is told that heeling with you is a good thing. REMEMBER, WHEN YOUR DOG HEELS PROPER HE SHOULD BE REWARDED FOR HIS EFFORT. A little playtime mixed in with heeling goes a long way toward getting your dog to want to heel with you.

If you heel just walking in a straight line for too long, it gets boring for your dog. To teach your dog to pay attention to where you are going you must change your speed and direction often. Think of it as heeling your dog down to the water for your turn at the water retrieve. The path is seldom a straight line or on even ground. You will probably pass other handlers and their dogs. They may be carrying birds. In a hunting situation you might be carrying birds and a gun through a farmers’ yard past the farm dog and 7 cats. It’s nice knowing that your dog won’t cut in front of you and trip you on his way to some distraction.

Heeling is something you can do on rainy days in Petco or PetSmart. On a weekend when you were going to do a little fieldwork and a thunderstorm pops up, try heading indoors to test your dogs’ heeling. Do a little heeling down the dog food aisle. Toss in some stays in toy aisle and a come down the treat aisle and you can have a productive training day. As long as your dog is well mannered and you “exercise” him before you get to the store, it is always a good place to tune up your dogs’ basic obedience skills.

Stay means Stay, Come means Come and Heel means Heel. Basic obedience is essential to getting a good hunting dog. The more you do with your dog, the better you will work as a team. When you teach your dog that it is expected of him to pay attention to you, it will make working in the field a little easier and more enjoyable for both you and your dog.

MHSA Board Meeting Minutes

Byerly's - Edina
March 4th 2008

Present: Ann Sunderman, Linda Simon, Lynn Lynch, Leanne Schmitz, Charlie Casey, Tony Roettger, Richard Bend

Absent: Doug Scurr and Nadine Kohn
Called to order at 7:25 p.m.

- I. Approval of 2/2008 meeting minutes – Minutes were not available for presentation to the board.
- II. President's report – Nothing new at this time.
- III. Secretary's report – Leanne received a letter from the AKC recommending that all clubs verify their "good standing" status with their State Dept. Dick Bend was able to help with this and the MHSA's good standing status has been verified.
- IV. Treasure's report – Club balance is \$1293.99 as of 3/4/2008 plus any profit made at the HT Judges Seminar.
- V. Committee reports-
 - A. HT Judges Seminar Recap – Seminar was moved from Edina to the Woodbury Gander Mountain. Tom Meyer was the presenter. There were 29 attendees.
 - B. Club Training Days – Next club training day at Brad Schindler's has been changed to April 27, 2008.
 - C. Spring Cocker Trial – Premiums have been posted on the website. Bethann is having a problem contacting Blaha.
 - D. Spring Hunt Test – Bethann is chairing. Judges have been chosen by Bethann and given to Nadine. Field volunteers needed.
- V. Unfinished Business-
 - A. Report to new board on current status of committee and volunteer rosters and vacancies for 2008 scheduled events: Reports were made while discussing committee reports above.

VII New Business-

- A. Minnesota Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. – Ann presented information on this group and their mission of sharing knowledge and legislative proposals that affect animal owners in MN. She motioned that the MHSA becomes a member of this non-profit organization. Dick Bend did some preliminary research on the group and found them to be a legitimate organization. The Board voted unanimously that it would be in our best interest to support such a cause. Dick Bend will follow through with the membership correspondence.
- B. New Members – 2 new membership applications could not be voted on because they had not been presented to the membership. They will be voted on at the April 2008 meeting.
- C. Updating Membership Directory/Email List – Leanne mentioned that she is getting numerous calls from members who are not receiving newsletters or club emails. Linda will follow-up with Nadine on making sure the email list is updated to match the most current club directory.

Motion to adjourn: by Leanne, second by Tony.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



2008 Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association
Fun Trial Stakes and Rules

Dates: June 21, July 20, & August 16, 2008

The Fun Trials will start at 9 AM sharp, rain or shine!

All Fun Trials will be held at Major Avenue Hunt Club, Glencoe – MN

Entry Fee - \$15/per dog for each stake

Purpose: A fun, non-threatening way to learn and participate in Field Trial-style events. For all stakes except Hunting and Shooting, gunners will be provided by the MHSA Club. Ribbons will be awarded to all placing Handlers/Dogs.

Puppy Stake: **Steady/Unsteady spaniel less than 15 months old at the time of the first Fun Trial. Open to any Handler. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel**

Junior Stake: Handler age 16 or younger. Dog may be steady or unsteady. Handler and Dog are judged 50% each. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel. Age and titles of dog do not matter.

Derby Stake: Steady dog less than 2 years at the time of the first Fun Trial. Open to any Handler. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel.

Novice Stake: This stake is for the new dog and new handler. Dog does not need to be steady. Handler and Dog are judged 50% each. Dog or handler may not have any field trial placements. First place and High Point handler/dogs of previous years Novice Stake should retire from this category. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel.

Open Stake: Open to any Handler. Open to any all age steady dog. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel.

Hunting Dog Stake: Open to any unsteady dog. Open to any Handler. Handler does his/her own shooting. Handler and Dog are judged 50% each. Limited to 2 shells per bird. Break open action shotgun preferred but not required. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel

Shooting Dog Stake: Open to any steady spaniel. Handler does his/her own shooting. Handler and Dog are judged 50% each. Limited to 2 shells per bird. Break open action shotgun preferred but not required. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel

RULES

All participants must wear one piece of blaze orange clothing above the waist while out in the field, preferably a vest. Eye protection is strongly recommended.

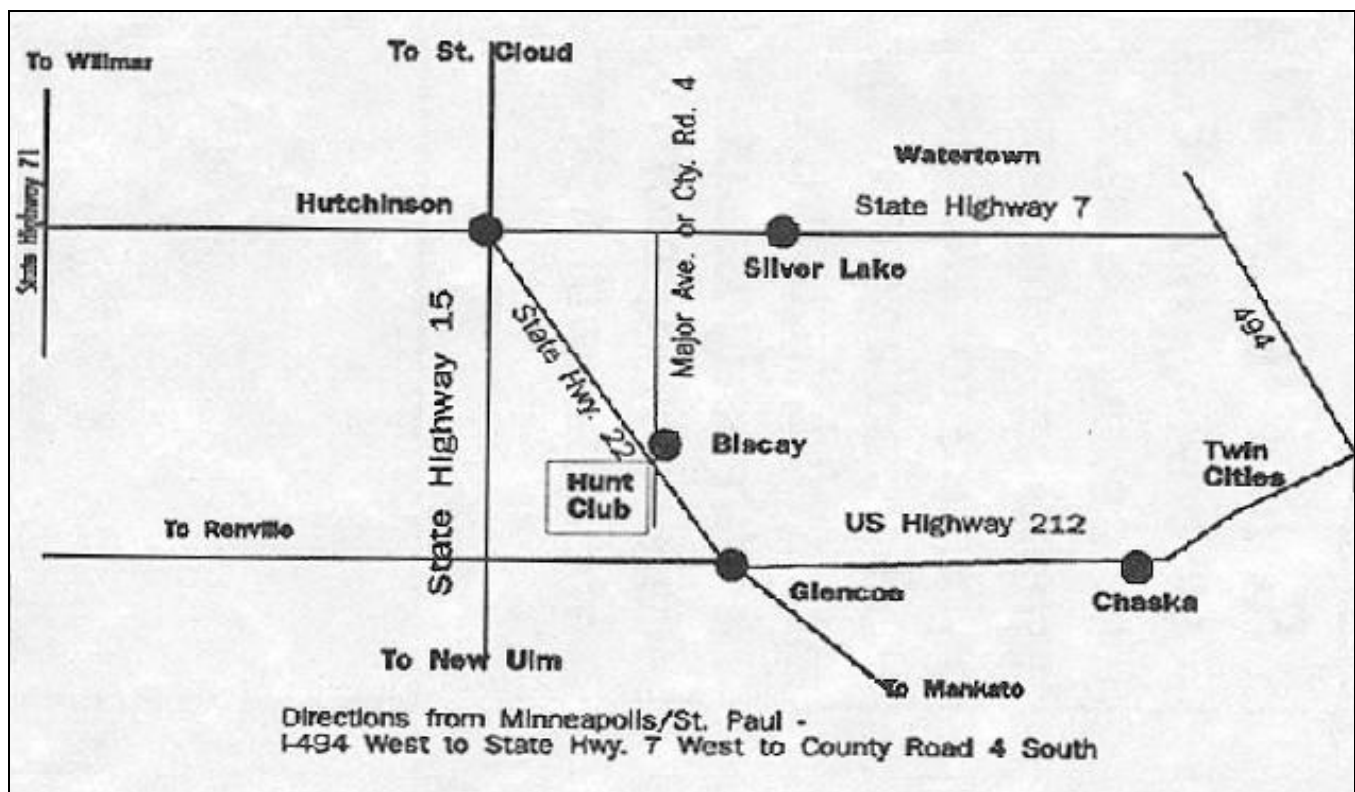
- No dog in season allowed on grounds. All dogs must be on a leash, except when participating. Spaniels are not allowed to wear a collar of any type when participating.
- Unless otherwise indicated, gunners will be provided for each stake by the MHSA Club.
- Open to any breed of flushing spaniel.
- A steady dog is one that stops at the flush of the bird, and/or sound of a shot, and waits for the command to retrieve, heel, or carry on.
- The Fun Trials will use Pigeons in all stakes.
-

Fun Trial Stakes and Rules – continued

- You may enter as many stakes as you are qualified for.
- The order of the stakes will be as listed, however some stakes may be run simultaneous.
- The Fun Trials will start at 9 AM sharp, rain or shine!
- All Fun Trials will be held at Major Avenue Hunt Club – Glencoe, MN – Map below.

If you wish to participate, or have questions, please contact:
Linda Simon at (320)-510-1904 or email whistlestopkennel@hotmail.com.

Pre-registration is not necessary but helpful so we will have enough birds on hand.



MHSA Merchandise Order Form

MHSA is pleased to offer the following club merchandise for sale. T-shirts, sweatshirts & hats are stocked by the Association & orders will be accepted throughout the year. Orders can be picked up at any MHSA event. If you would prefer to have your order mailed, **add \$10** to your order for shipping and handling.

Delivery will be at the event following receipt of the order. A check, made payable to **MHSA**, must accompany your order, which can be mailed to Shirley Harford - 7816 66th Ave N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428. If you have any questions regarding merchandise, please contact Shirley at Lougeelake@comcast.net.

Description of merchandise and order number

#5930 Fruit of the Loom Adult Short Sleeve T-shirt

Colors –Blaze Orange, Jade Green, Ash Grey, Khaki, Burgundy
 Sizes – Small to XL Cost - \$15.00

#1630 Sweatshirt

Colors - Blaze Orange, Ash Grey, Forest Green, Khaki, Burgundy
 Sizes -Small to XL Cost - \$25.00

#0504 Polo w/pocket

Colors – Ash Grey, Forest Green, Steel Grey, Orange
 Sizes -Small to XL Cost - \$30.00

#16130 Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt

Colors – Ash Grey, Heather Grey, Royal Blue
 Sizes -Small to XL Cost - \$30.00

#2110 Polyester Fleece Lined Bomber Jacket

Colors – Pine/ Charcoal, Black/Black, Black/Heather Grey
 Sizes - Small to XL
 Cost - With crest logo on the front \$60.00
 - With both crest and back logo \$75.00

#6288 WXT Upland Blaze Orange Safety Cap

Sizes - One size fits all Cost - \$15.00

#3261 Blaze Orange Cap w/2 tone Pheasant on side

Size – One size fits all Cost - \$20.00

Two-sided MHSA Logo Mug (11oz.)

Colors – Ivory w/Burgundy
 Cost - \$7.00 ea. or 2 for \$12.00

MHSA Patch

Cost -\$7.50

MHSA Lapel Pin

Cost - \$5.00

Note: for all clothing items: 2XL sizes are available - add \$1.50 / 3XL sizes are available - add \$3.00)

Item #:	Description	Sizes	Color	Qty.	Price each	Total Price
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
SHADED AREA FOR BOMBER JACKET ONLY:						
#2110	Bomber Jacket				Crest Logo	\$
					Both Logos	\$
					Size Up Chrg	\$
Shipping (if applicable):					\$	\$
Order Total:					\$	\$

Shipping/Contact Information:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____



Upcoming MHSA Events

2008

May 10 & 11 – MHSA Spring Hunt Test

May 17 – MHSA Club Training Day at Roettger Ridge

June 21 – 1st MHSA Fun Trial & Working Dog Test at Major Avenue

July 19 – 2nd MHSA Fun Trial (date tentative)

Aug. – MHSA Club Picnic (date to be determined)

Aug. 16 – 3rd MHSA Fun Trial (date tentative)

Sept. 6 & 7 – MHSA Fall Hunt Test

Sept. 12-14 – MHSA Cocker Trial (tentative)

Nov. – Indoor Duck Shoot (date to be determined)



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English Springer Spaniel Information
and Field Trial Page

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