

COCHISE BIRD DOG CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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AKC UPDATE

Dave tells me that we are still in the process of obtaining AKC certification so that we will be able to hold Hunt Tests on our own

FIELD TRIAL GROUNDS

Dave and several others in the Club have been searching high and low for suitable grounds for the Club to use. So far for a variety of reasons we have yet to find what we need and firm up permission to use them. If any members no of a spot please let Dave know so we can check it out.

What is required is a piece of ground that is reasonably flat and free of rocks that would make it difficult for a foot handler to hustle through. Remember these events are all on the clock so we don't want twisted ankles or spills. The area should be at least four hundred yards wide and about a thousand yards long. This would allow us to set up an oblong course that would give the horse back trials a thirty minute course and would give the foot handlers a maximum of an hour long course. The area also requires good road access since a number of the participants will bring in travel trailers or horse trailers. Ground cover should be adequate to hide birds but should be relatively free of cactus

and brush so that the participants will have a clear view of their dogs.

TEACHING THE POINT

By: Mike Jones

Yes I know the pup has pointed different objects and maybe even a bird. Now is the time though to teach him to point each and every time he finds a bird. The confusing part of this is that you will be doing it at the same time you are teaching the dog to stop and stand and introducing the E-collar to it. What happens is that during the other two phases you will take you turn and let the dog go forward and handle a bird. At first it will only want to run it up as we taught it to do previously when we introduced it to birds and the gun.

Using the check cord we allow the dog to go in and flush the bird but not catch it. This will require you to only allow the dog to have approximately five (5) to six (6) feet of the cord. Once the dog has committed itself to flushing you will use the check cord to restrain it so that it cannot get the bird. It also requires the flusher or gunner to be alert and prepared to complete the flush quickly if the bird will not fly away on its own. During this process we do not fire the blank gun. By not firing the blank we are able to allow the dog to advance and work the same

bird again. Remember that the blank is the signal that the bird work has been completed satisfactory. Now once the bird has flown restrain the dog with the cord and set it back as we have been taught and work it on standing still until it is calm once again. Than advance on the bird and repeat the process. With in a few attempts your dog will point and stand on the bird. At first this may only be a flash point but if you quickly slide you hand forward and locate it at the collar you will be able to restrain the dog until the gunner flushes it and fires the blank. At that point you will return to the main group and another will come forward to work his or her dog on a bird.

As the days of training go by you will find your dog holding its point longer and longer as you work it on birds. Eventually it will point and hold to the flush every time. Yet you will find that once the flushing process commences he will break. If you have taught him the basics of stopping and standing and also have introduced the E-collar correctly you will be ready to start tying it all together. The way this work is when he breaks on the flush you will begin to use quick taps with the electric collar to make him stop and stand while the bird is in the air. Remember that in close proximity to the birds his excitement level is much higher and the stimulation level will be correspondingly higher also. In time

this process will stop the dog from breaking not only on the flush but also on the shot.

As you can see in the breaking process a number of things are going on at the same time and each one is related to the other steps. One item that is very important to remember is that your dog does not nee a bird killed for it each time you go out but it is important to kill a bird now and again. I usually train three days a week and like to kill one for the dog at least once a week. So plan this event before you go out and always have enough birds on hand to accomplish it. Another time to kill a bird for the dog is when you have done something to dampen its enthusiasm. This is the reason for not working your dog in a place that birds are not present and you are able to shot one for it.

SATURDAY TRAINING

We seam to be having a bit of a sputter start this year for the Club training sessions. Dave will be going to Texas the first week end and unless we get someone to pick up pigeons for the club there will be no training.

Not necessarily a bad thing though since last week end while training we encountered a rattlesnake. This find on the training grounds emphasizes the need to snake break your dog at the earliest opportunity.

CBDC Minutes from meeting on June 19, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. after the club's Fun Hunt and wonderful pot luck meal.

First order of business was an introduction of officers and Board members.

President	David Higgins	<u>Board</u>
<u>Members</u>		
Vice President	Michael Jones	Chris Ornforf
Treasurer	Chris Sterner	Jim Kleminski
Secretary	Barbara Hershberger	Lon Rominger

It was moved and seconded that we accept the above slate of officers and board members.

Next year Dave would like someone to volunteer to chair the nominating committee which will be established in the January or February time frame.

Treasurers' Report

Chris reported our club as \$739.00 as of 6/19. Mike Jones suggested that we audit our treasury once a year and the membership agreed.

Items of business

- Dave is exploring the possibility of affiliation with the American Kennel Club. He has contacted the AKC and received information on the procedure to obtain this status. One advantage would be the ability to put on AKC events to increase income.
- Future club activities would include: Fun Hunts (possibly coincide with hunting season) and AKC Hunt Tests.
- There was a discussion on grounds for Field Trial. Dave has been checking out areas available for clubs to hold Field Trials that would be in close proximity to the area. There was an area in

Tombstone that was being offered by a rancher but he decided to withdraw his offer. It was requested of the membership to explore for areas suitable for Field Trials. Dave has a fact sheet on Field Trials available for members. This information would educate the public on what Field Trials are. The fact sheet is enclosed to these minutes.

- If any member has items for the newsletter such as: articles, new members, photos or brags please submit to Mike Jones at birddog@direcway.com.
- There was a question from a member regarding the keeping of birds for training. There does not seem to be a problem if you house birds for a few days. Mike Jones explained to the membership the procedure of disposing of birds after a training session. You should be selective where you put the birds. To amplify on Mike's comments, he was cautioning us to be careful of where and how you dispose of any birds that may be killed during training, a fun hunt or trial. They should not be disposed of in a public place where they may be seen by other folks, such as Animal Rightists (AR). It is also highly recommended that you have your training permit from the Arizona Game and Fish Department which allows you to release and have in your possession pen raised game birds.
- Dave also mentioned the fact that the club should proceed with another shotgun raffle to increase our funds. He also mentioned that he would like to get the club to a point to where our revenue production is done through sponsorship of annual competitive events or membership renewal.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Barbara Hershberger