

# Missouri Headwaters Gun Dog Club

## Dates for Board Meetings for 2007

The October 16th board meeting was postponed until Nov 13th

The December 18th meeting will start at 6:00pm, the annual Christmas wild game dinner will start at 7:00pm - bring your best wild game dish.

### General Meetings:

December 18th, Board Meeting  
@ 6:00 pm Christmas Party  
Wild Game Feed 7:00pm

February 9th, 2008 Annual  
Club Meeting tentatively at the  
King Tool building.

### Tentative club calendar for 2008

Jan 12 tentative date for  
Spaniel Hunt Test Seminar

Jan 13 tentative date for  
Retriever Hunt Test Seminar

## Board of Directors

**President**—Randy Setzer 285-6724

**Vice President** - Dan Marsh 587-7578

**Secretary**—Scott Benowitz 585-7101

**Treasurer**—Julie Kirkland 582-7376

### Retrievers

Pat Dillon 995-2415

Kyle Barner 995-4319

### Pointers

Sam Robinson (c) 539-6119

Wil Avril 522-0992

### Spaniels

Al Gadoury 586-3806

Greg Johnson 586-6323

## Retriever Hunt Test Results of Club members

### Junior :

Kerri Payne - Levi's Little Angel

### Master :

Kerri Payne - There and Back

Joe Braverman - Biggun's River Pirate

Kerri Payne - Win River's Take a Chance on Me MH

Joe Braverman - Midnight Sun South paw

## Presidents Report

Hello Everyone,

We made an error earlier in the year and continued to send newsletters to people that did not renew their dues. If you have a RED checkmark on your address label our records show that you did not pay your dues. If this is in error please contact us.

The training year is over for most and bird seasons are under way. Let's hope for cooler weather and some rain soon.

I heard some good things about the pointer training this year. The instructional training/seminars put on by the pointers early in the year were enjoyed and more people pitched and lessened the load.

Spaniel training was strong and well attended with a couple of new members. Some spaniel members will continue to train occasionally throughout the fall and until the snow flies.

The retrievers did not have many organized training sessions this year. We hope to remedy that in the future.

We have a number of hen pheasants left over. We will sell them for \$5.00 each. If someone takes them all we will sell them for \$4.50.

It's a good idea to carry a first aid kit on hunting trips. There should be items for your dog in case of an accident. Your vet can suggest items to carry. Dr Sue Geske, Double Diamond Vet Clinic, 522-9491 can provide you with vet wrap, surgical staplers etc.

Happy hunting.

Randy

## MHGDC Board Meeting Minutes

08/21/07

The meeting of the MHGDC Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Board Members Present:** Sam Robinson, Wil Avril, Al Gadoury, Julie Kirkland, Greg Johnson, Randy Setzer, Dan Marsh, Pat Dillon, and Scott Benowitz.

**President's Report:** Spaniel Hunt Test net \$40, plus 40 hen pheasants. These birds will be sold at the fire sale price of \$5 each. The retriever hunt test should break even.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the 06/19/07 meeting as posted on the web site were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Income/expense statement for month was presented. 2-yr CD-\$12,868, checking - \$13,760. Delinquent members will receive one last dues notice, then dropped from mailing list.

**Pointers:** Fun trial – lots of dogs. Contact Sam for list of winners.

**Spaniels:** The Spaniels are still training on Saturdays. Fun trial saw 14 dogs. Winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place Jack Weiss and Dottie (yeah Dottie!!); 2<sup>nd</sup> place Greg Johnson and Tori (yawn); 3<sup>rd</sup> place Greg Johnson and Nikki (notice a pattern here?). Bite of Logan lunch followed. Club has leftover hen pheasants to sell at \$5 each. Contact Randy Setzer. MHGC will hold a 1-day Cocker trial to be held April 4, in conjunction with MHGDC ESS field trial on April 5-6, 2008 at Fairweather.

**Retrievers:** MHGDC's AKC Hunt Test held August 18 and 19 at the Elk Park field. Qualifying scores are Kerri Payne with Hobby and Chance; Joe Braverman with Lefty and Rio. Joe is retiring Rio from competition.

### Unfinished Business:

Training grounds parking lot repairs underway. No weed spraying at training grounds this year. No deal on Greycliff Ranch this year, and will not be considered for an alternate training ground in the future. Past due notices will be attached to upcoming newsletter. Assumption of Risk document to be reviewed by attorney, and results will be presented at next Board meeting for Board to consider. October Board meeting postponed until November 13. Randy will notify members about location. Board is once again looking for additional training grounds. Please contact a Board member if you have any ideas.

### New Business:

Looking for a new, reliable bird supplier for club events. Possibilities include an operation near Idaho Falls and Belgrade. Board members will investigate.

Annual meeting February 9, 2008 at King Tool. Same format as last year. Randy will organize Nominating Committee for 2009 Board elections. The club's equipment shed and flight pens at Setzers are in need of repair. A repair and clean-up event will be held the last weekend of March, 2008 to take care of needed items. When using email for club issues, please limit to club members only.

Liability insurance for Board members – Sam will ask insurance agent to review policy types, and our existing club policy, and provide an opinion as to whether the Board should consider purchasing additional insurance to cover Board members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Professor in Special Education, University of Wisconsin, at Oshkosh

My last article was about the power of using a consistent chain of behaviors in training and competition. At the end there was mention of the existence of effective strategies to learn each of those skills within that chain. This article will discuss the framework for effective instructional practices. In future articles, each of the instructional levels and details regarding the factors within them that enhance learning will be presented.

Instructors (dog trainers) exercise considerable latitude over approaches to or methods of teaching. There are a variety of possibilities, some of which are more effective than others. This is true in public schools as well as in training a dog. Effective instructional approaches are based on carefully researched learning theory. One has to be careful to differ between something having a research base or simply assuming that an option is valid because it is in print. Additionally, care should be taken not to assume because something seemed to work for one student (dog) one time, that it is a principle that should be applied to all students. Developing a frame of reference or principles based on effective teaching practices is necessary for the successful educator—weather with dogs and children. By having a reliable frame of reference or set of principles, the instructor can elevate their instructional practices. The question can be continually asked, “What was I doing to create learning experiences that result in positive student (dog) outcomes?” If problems are encountered, the instructor can continually re-evaluate the situation based on reliable principles and make changes in what they are doing to achieve the desired results.

Within learning theory, there are instructional levels regarding how one acquires knowledge. When teaching proceeds in relation to those sequences, the student (dog) will have the most optimal chance of acquiring new skills. When proper sequences are not used, sometimes the pupil will eventually learn but most often confusion and failure results. When failure occurs, it will only compound unless the student (dog) is taken back through the learning process appropriately. All too often we blame the student (dog) for not responding correctly. Often it is our fault for expecting a response or demonstration of a skill that they simply aren't ready for or don't understand.

Having a thorough knowledge of curriculum is critical prior to considering teaching any skill. Curriculum is defined as all of the required content. Much, though not all, of the curriculum in schools, as well as in training a dog, is sequential. Known skills become the basis for future more difficult skill achievement. If the instructor does not have a full and detailed understanding of the entire curriculum, it is not likely that they will achieve success in teaching.

Once the instructor (trainer) is clear about what they want to achieve (the curriculum), then there are four levels to consider for effective instruction: **acquisition, fluency, generalization, and maintenance**. These are levels of learning that occur during education. Whether you are willing to recognize the existence of the sequence of the four levels or not, they are occurring as

Each skill is achieved.

### Acquisition

The stage of acquisition is the teaching a new concept or skill. There are multiple factors involved in how to appropriately teach a new skill. At the acquisition level you are showing the dog what is expected. Praise is used to indicate to the dog that they have responded correctly. The skill is taught in a controlled environment (yard work). Only one new skill is introduced at any one time. Language (commands) are kept simple and consistent. A human example of teaching at the acquisition level is teaching addition when the student only knows how to count and does not yet know how to combine numbers. While the skill is built on prior knowledge, it is new to the student. Guiding the student carefully in understanding what is desired is key at this level. There are many “rules” for the acquisition that will appear in future articles.

### Fluency

Fluency is the next stage of learning. In fluency a newly learned skill at the acquisition level is practiced to the point of automatic response at an increased response speed. An example of this in humans is learning multiplication tables. A high level of accurate automatic response cannot be achieved unless first the instructor has been careful in assuring understanding and accuracy of response in the acquisition above. Specific education must take place in developing the required behavior into a level of fluency. While developing fluency the instructor is still working in a controlled environment (the yard-work area with short cover and minimal distractions). It is not yet time to expect the student (dog) apply the skills in other settings. More on how to develop fluency including the use of appropriate praise will be in future articles.

### Generalization

Generalization is teaching the student (dog) to perform the skill in a variety of settings. This level must be taught just as carefully as the initial acquisition and fluency levels. A human example relating would be counting money and making change. After a student has learned to count money and make change in a class room (acquisition in a controlled setting) and have demonstrated increased their speed and accuracy (fluency), many instructors make the assumption is that the student is ready to go to a store and apply the skill. However, with most students it is advisable to practice the new skill in very simple stores before sending them out to do it at a crowded discount mall during a big sale. The discount mall contains unfamiliar settings and all sorts of distractions that can make them forget to do their fluent skill accurately. From fluency to performing the skill in any setting under any conditions, the instructor (handler) needs to have the pupil (dog) practice in a series of increasingly difficult settings.

Generalization should be taught as carefully

As initial acquisition of skills. It can never be assumed that fluent skills learned in controlled environments will automatically generalize to other settings. In the education of a retriever, you would not expect a dog to perform a skill at a competition, until you had trained the skill to generalization. In training for generalization you start with simple settings and progress to more sophisticated settings. The settings would have increased distractions and more difficult factors of wind, water, terrain. Suggestions on generalization activities will appear in future articles.

### **Maintenance**

Once a skill is learned, the instructor (trainer) must continually check to see if the skills are maintained. If skills are slipping, then remediation is necessary. A variety of reasons might cause the dogs to have problems. Does the trainer really know what was expected or if the dog just wasn't making an effort to do a known correct response? Is there something new and different about this situation that does not allow the dog to recognize it as something he knows how to do? Is the training day after a long lay-off and responses have to be reviewed? Were the foundation skills really strong as had been assumed? Careful analysis must take place to determine how the instructor will work with problems that occur. Start by looking at the whole curriculum sequence and levels of learning within the entire each skill within it. Remediate at the appropriate level.

### **Summary**

In summary, based on the four sequential stages above, when you are training your dog think about what level your dog is at. Ask questions like: Are you asking for generalization of a skill that the dog has not yet become fluent in? or are you asking a dog to be fluent, have automatic quick response, when the dog has not practiced to achieve fluency? Have you been tempted to "try it out in the field" just to see if by chance the dog can do it? Many trainers often experiment to see if the dog will do it when the dog really isn't ready. In other words, try to analyze your training from the point of view of what you are asking the dog. Examine first whether the expectations are fair before deciding that the dog isn't trying.

Within the four levels involved in achieving new skills, there are many sets of "rules" for how you effectively teach.

### **Subject: Dogs and raisins**

**This came to me from a good friend who happens to be a vet. Good to know.**

If you have a dog... read this and PLEASE send it on  
Written by: Laurinda Morris, DVM Danville Veterinary Clinic Danville , Ohio

This week I had the first case in history of raisin toxicity ever seen

at MedVet. My patient was a 56-pound, 5 yr old male neutered lab mix that ate half a canister of raisins sometime between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Tuesday. He started with vomiting, diarrhea and shaking about 1AM on Wednesday but the owner didn't call my emergency service until 7AM.

I had heard somewhere about raisins AND grapes causing acute Renal failure but hadn't seen any formal paper on the subject.

We had her

bring the dog in immediately. In the meantime, I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me - had heard something

about it, but....Anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center and they said to give IV fluids at 1 times maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours. The dog's BUN (blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal less than 27) and creatinine over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. Rechecked the renal values at 5 PM and the BUN was over 40 and creatinine over 7 with no urine production after a liter of fluids. At the point I felt the dog was in acute renal failure and sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care. He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet and his renal values have continued to increase daily. He produced urine when given lasix as a diuretic. He was on 3 different anti-vomiting medications and they still couldn't control his vomiting. Today his urine output decreased again, his BUN was over 120, his creatinine was at 10, his phosphorus was very elevated and his blood pressure, which had been staying around 150, skyrocketed to 220.. He continued to vomit and the owners elected to euthanize. This is a very sad case - great dog, great owners who had no idea raisins could be a toxin. Please alert everyone you know who has a dog of this very serious risk. Poison control said as few as 7 raisins or grapes could be toxic. Many people I know give their dogs grapes or raisins as treats including our ex-handler's. Any exposure should give rise to immediate concern.

Laurinda Morris, DVM Danville Veterinary Clinic Danville , Ohio  
Even if you don't have a dog, you might have friends who do.

This is worth passing on to them.

### **MRK WEED CONTROL**

**SPECIALIZING IN SMALL ACREAGE**

Randy & Tracey Setzer 285-6724

setzers5@aol.com

### The final Flushing Dog Fun Trial of 2007

was held along the meandering creek at the MHGDC training grounds on Saturday, August 4. Fourteen flushing spaniels were entered to test their acumen against the crafty rock dove, aka pigeon, and ditch parrot, aka pen-raised hen pheasant that have been living the life of luxury in flight pens since our April spaniel field trial. Our judges included the seasoned veteran Kyle Barner and Eric Hammer who was taking on his first judging assignment.

The morning started with a light covering of dew on the vegetation that dissipated shortly after sunrise. As you might expect, scenting conditions were typical for this time of year – pretty lousy. We started off the event with strong flying pigeons and hen pheasants that for the most part decided it was better to run and hide than fly. Bird production pretty much stayed that way throughout the event. A couple of notable moments are worth recapping. Dottie, owned and operated by Jack Weiss, made a double pigeon flush and she was absolutely steady to flush and shot. Even more notable was Jack downing both birds! As you can imagine, Jack contained his amazement over Dottie being steady (“Wow, did you see that?”) and his excitement that he actually got two birds with two shots (“Wow, did you see that?”) with witnesses present! On her next bird, Dottie flushed a pheasant over the creek, again was steady and made a nice water retrieve.

The event concluded with our traditional picnic lunch that’s sort of like the Bite of Bozeman but on a much smaller scale. We had the standard three course lunch (sandwiches, chips, drinks) but added to the fare this time were delicious desserts made by Veda Barner and Cheryl Johnson. Placements were presented following the picnic. Dottie and Jack, for their performance took the blue ribbon for first. (Actually they didn’t get the ribbon because the Fun Trial Chair, yours truly, forgot them.) Tori owned by Greg and Cheryl Johnson took second and Niki also owned by Greg and Cheryl came in third. Larry Michnevich and Beam, while demonstrating a stunning display of teamwork and trapping birds, did not take a ribbon home. Larry said that didn’t matter because his dog was good enough that he was going to win lots of ribbons down the road – or something like that.

A hearty thanks to all who participated in these fun events this year. As a reminder Flushing Dog Fun Trials are held the second Saturday from March – August. It’s a good opportunity to watch flushing dogs work in the field and have some fun!

Greg Johnson

### SPANIEL REPORT By Al Gadoury

Some of the spaniels are still training

Saturday’s starting at 8 a.m. We have \$5

pheasants available to any member. If you

would like birds in the morning please call Randy, 285-6724. Would anyone like to serve

on the nominating committee? The only

changes in the upland bird regulations are

the sage grouse limit is 2 with 4 in possession.

August 11 & 12 Spaniel Hunt Test Club members and dogs who received qualifying scores  
**Junior qualifying scores Saturday**

Roy Vaessen—Annie

Randy Setzer—Shooter

**Senior**

Olivia Steele-Mortimer—Spydie

Jack Weiss—Spot

Olivia Steele-Mortimer—Buster (Senior Title)

**Master**

Jack Weiss- Dotie

Robert Griffin—Annie

**Qualifying Scores Sunday**

**Junior**

Randy Setzer—Shooter

Jeff Squire—Skye

Owen Metcalf—Sage

**Senior**

Olivia Steele-Mortimer—Spydie

Jack Weiss—Spot

Eric Hammer—Emma

**Master**

Robert Griffin—Annie (**Master Title**)

Olivia Steele-Mortimer—Buster

Jack Weiss—Dotie

Two Mec 600 Jr loading tools (20 & 12 gauge) with a variety of bushings and charge bars, plus 5 lbs. Of IMR HI-SKOR 700– X powder and other components. –No bids under \$1.00 please. Call Dave Stewart 586-4000

LOST

At the German Pointing dog events at the training grounds. Weekend of Aug 24-26

1 leather lead if found please call John Mester @ 587-6392

Also

Starter pistol if found please call Nancy Lane @ 1-406-989-2480

\*\*\*\*\*

**ITEM OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE  
TO LABRADOR OWNERS, PERSPECTIVE OWNERS, BREEDERS, ETC**

**There is a genetic disease called  
Centronuclear Myopathy**

**Below is a web site you can go to, to learn more on this disease and how you can have  
your Labrador tested for this debilitating and heart  
breaking disease. [labradorenm.com](http://labradorenm.com)**

**Or you can access it by going to Working Retriever Central**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pointing Dog Training**

I train all breeds of pointing dogs to a high level: whoa, come, heal, force fetch, steady to wing or shot. **My five-month program begins in April and ends in August.** I limit my kennel to no more than two dogs per summer, so your dog will get lots of individual attention.

Please feel free to talk to me personally or inspect my kennel. I can provide references and my rates are reasonable.

**Dave Carty 586-8203**

**MADISON RIVER KENNELS  
PET FOOD DISTRIBUTORS OF**

**Eagle Pack<sup>®</sup>**  
*Super Premium Pet Food*

**PET FOODS  
RANDY & TRACEY SETZER  
16360 MADISON FRONTAGE RD. THREE FORKS, MT 59752  
[www.montanapetfoods.com](http://www.montanapetfoods.com) (406-285-6724)**



MISSOURI HEADWATERS  
GUN DOG CLUB  
PO Box 4717  
Bozeman, MT 59772-  
4717

**Mhgdc.org check us out!**