



MHGDC EVENTS

Board Meetings for 2008

Oct 21, Dec 16

WILD GAME FEED

DECEMBER 16TH

Board meeting 6:00pm

Wild Game feed Christmas party 7:00pm Bring your best wild game dish, or dessert.

ANNUAL MEETING:

FEB 7TH 2009

more details later

Donation Items needed

Board of Directors

President– Randy Setzer 285-6724

Vice President - Greg Johnson 586-6323

Secretary—Scott Benowitz 585-7101

Treasurer –Julie Kirkland 582-7376

Retrievers

Pat Dillon 995-2415

Kyle Barner 995-4319

Pointers

Wil Avril 522-0997

Peter Bakun 388-6829

Spaniels

Al Gadoury 586-3806

Jeff Squire 587-1840

HEAD START

some of you may not be thinking in this direction yet, but the board has been and it is time to start thinking about the annual meeting. Donating items for the raffle, etc.

President's message

Another training year is at a close. I heard plenty of good things this year and very few complaints. If you've noticed anything that might improve our training sessions bring it to the attention of a board member. Even better, consider being a board member your self next year. It's always great to get new blood and fresh ideas involved.

I hope everyone's training year met their expectations. Mine certainly did.

Remember to be patient with the youngsters, they will make mistakes but they have to learn their trade.

I haven't heard much for bird reports. I hope everyone finds plenty. I hope the points are staunch, the flushes are hard and the retrieves are to hand.

Good luck to all. When you find your new favorite recipe remember the wild game feed in December.

Randy

MHGDC Board Meeting Minutes 08/19/08

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

Board Members Present: Al Gadoury, Julie Kirkland, Greg Johnson, Randy Setzer, Peter Bakun, Kyle Barner, Jeff Squire, Wil Avril and Scott Benowitz.

Guests Present: Ray Heagney, FWP Region 3 State Parks.

President's Report: None

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the 4/18/08 meeting were approved. There was not a quorum for the June meeting, so official meeting minutes were not taken. However, an informational meeting was held and minutes were taken for that and are included in the Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report: Income/expense statement for month and year-to-date was presented. The Board decided that in the future, actual bird expenses for the trials and hunt tests will be charged to the event itself and all other birds (that is, left over birds) will be charged to the "Bird" category.

Pointers: Fun trials have been successful. Details to be provided in newsletter. Pointer group is ready to order birds for 2009 training.

Spaniels: The flushing dog fun trials have been successful. Details to be provided in newsletter.

Retrievers: No report.

Unfinished Business:

Assumption of risk language: State Statue describes those individual members of a Board of Directors of a not-for-profit corporation such as the MHGDC cannot be held liable for actions of the club, except in certain cases of individual negligence.

New Business:

Club will purchase a \$150 advertisement in the Cocker Field Trial Nationals catalog. This trial will be held in Bozeman in October.

FWP will require the club to purchase a Restricted Use Permit for use of the training grounds, beginning in January, 2009. Ray Heagney suggested a flat fee to cover all club special events at Headwaters, Fairweather FAS, and Blackbird FAS. The flat fee will be \$2.00 per club member as of December 31, of each prior year. In-kind work performed at one of these locations, such as weed spraying or driveway improvements will go towards the annual payment. Fee will be paid in January of each year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

POINTING DOG REPORT

We have had a successful pointing dog season with several sessions of instruction by experienced members on various topics with the last one by Randy Setzer on animal traps and their dangers to our dogs or lack thereof and how to deal with them. In addition, our Thursday training sessions have continued to be useful to us for training our new dogs or maintaining the level of performance of experienced ones over live birds using mostly quail, but this year using also some pigeons and chukars. AS of the end of August we should be completely out of quail and experienced only light mortality (about 20 birds out of 750). Our new pen and trailer location at Randy & Tracey Setzer's has worked out very well in terms of mortality and convenience. Thanks again Randy & Tracey!

Our Fun Trials have gone well, but have been more lightly attended than in the past due to commitments of some regulars to work, other trials, etc.

Nevertheless, they have been great experiences as training opportunity's fun and relaxed competition, good conversation and good food. The results of the last two are as follows.

July

1st Otis - Jim Wiitala - 48 points

2nd Trutz - Glenn Johnston - 28 points

3rd Ringo Jim Wiitala -26 points

Aug

1st Ringo -Jim Wiitala - 38 points

2nd Elle - Al Gadoury -33 points

3rd Three way tie at 30 point each:

Asta -Glenn Johnston

Rusty - Mark Donovan

Coach -Jim Wiitala

Finally, this last Thursday we had snake break training once again by Butch Nelson. It was well attended with 31 dogs getting initial training and 14 retrained. It is gratifying to see this many dogs getting this training against what can potentially be a very serious problem for dog and owner.

We want to thank all those who have helped the Pointing Dog Group in various ways make this a productive, fun and successful year!

Great Falls NSTRA trial held Aug 23 & 24, Mark Donovan & Rusty took 1st, Tom Curtis & Chica took 3rd.

The pointers have 20 quail left from training for sale, \$5 per bird or buy 5 birds for \$4. if interested please call Peter or Wil.

Peter Bakun

Wil Avril

August Flushing Dog Trial

The last flushing dog fun trial for 2008 was held August 9 at the Headwaters training grounds. Judges for the event were Al Gaudoury and Mike Knowles, a pointer man and newcomer to flushing dogs. Seven dogs were entered for the event with one participant coming all the way from Michigan to run his dogs. [OK, it wasn't quite that long a drive since Tom spends part of the year in Livingston].

As usual the team work between flushing dog and handler was par excellence. Some of the highlights included Gillie, Scott Benowitz owner/operator, ascending a tree to the top branches to make a retrieve. At least that was Scott's description, since the gallery was looking for the giant pigeons being pointed out on the horizon by one of the judges. Tom Clark, who entered Tramp and Hackett, demonstrated his shooting ability by consistently making long shots and his dogs making long retrieves through water and buffalo berry. Chase and Sage, run by Kyle Barner and Owen Metcalf, respectively, did a great job of covering the course and using the wind to find their two birds. Both dogs really demonstrated the flowing style of Springer spaniels.

Following the land work, a gourmet lunch was prepared by Cheryl Johnson and included chicken Caesar salad, cantaloupe and blueberry salad and raspberry crisp with whip cream for dessert. That was a great lunch – Thank you Cheryl!! The award ceremony followed lunch. Gillie, for finding birds and her cat-like retrieving skills received first place; second and third place ribbons went to Tom Clark's Tramp and Hackett. [Hereafter Tom will be known as Ribbon Hog.] The judges commented that these three dogs were the only ones to find all three planted chukars. Hmm. I thought only two birds were planted per dog. By the way, as we were leaving the grounds, I thought I saw Ribbon Hog tying his ribbons to the antennae of his Suburban. I might be mistaken though, after all I never saw the giant pigeons, I only saw pelicans on the horizon.

Have a good fall!! Greg Johnson

John Mester has homing pigeons for sale \$4.50 per bird, call for details. 587-6392

Annual meeting

February 7, 2007

Time to start thinking about the annual meeting, which also means we will be looking for the donation of items for the raffle.

The one table we always seem to be lacking in is the youth table, there must be members with youth 12-18. Please encourage your teenagers to come.

If we want to get & keep the youth interested in hunting we need to help promote it. If you have any items that you would like to donate especially for the youth table please let us know.

All donations are appreciated.

To: All Spaniel Breed Clubs July 2008

Subject: **SPORTSMANSHIP**

One of the great traditions of our field events is sportsmanship. Indeed it can be argued that good sportsmanship is a factor that has contributed to the sports long term strength and popularity. Recently an increasing number of participants have expressed concern about what is happening to the culture of sportsmanship. It is worthwhile to periodically re-visit the importance of sportsmanship to the future of the sport.

Sportsmanship is expressed in the nature of one's conduct while associated with a sport. Good sportsmanship includes not only abiding by the rules but also conducting oneself with proper consideration for fairness, ethics and respect for other participants, officials, and those hosting the event, as well as respect for the traditional conventions of the sport. Good sportsmanship expresses an aspiration that the sport should be enjoyed for its own sake.

Sportsmanship is closely related to character. Character refers to one's dispositions, values and habits that determine the manner in which a person responds to desires, fears, challenges, opportunities, failures and successes. A person with a strong, positive character will usually conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

There is an additional, more subtle side to sportsmanship. Studies refer to it as "full commitment to participation." This means more than just running your dog. It means embracing the sport in a broader sense through a willingness to contribute time and effort to the sport's success. We all know individuals who participate but never contribute. They are often the first to complain when something goes wrong. This is a subtle form of poor sportsmanship.

Good sportsmanship contributes to the pleasure one experiences at an event and helps build support for the sport in general. The lack of sportsmanship works to undermine support for the sport. The experienced participant realizes the vagaries of an event may sometimes result in a less than desired performance. Never the less, if he feels he was given a fair chance and was treated respectfully, he will leave anxious to try again another day. If a participant leaves feeling he was not treated fairly or with respect, he will question if he should enter that event again.

For the enjoyment of everyone involved and the future interest of the sport, please consider the importance of sportsmanship and demonstrate it through your actions and words. We would all do well to remember the words posted in the clubhouse at Branched Oak, Nebraska – "To brag little, to lose well, to crow gently if in luck, to pay up, to own up, to shut up if beaten. These are the virtues of a sporting man."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Sincerely,

Doug Ljungren

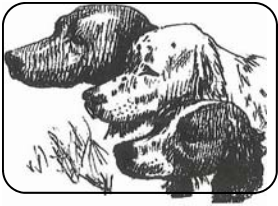
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