



Mount Rainier Sporting Spaniel Association

Sporting Tails

March 2008

Meeting Dates

- Mar 8+9 SKC booth
- April 27—Scatter Creek
- May3+4—Hunt tests
- June 22—Scatter Creek
- July 19— Scatter Creek
- Aug 30—Hunt tests
- Oct 19—spaniel fest—Paws-ab
- Dec 13 —Christmas party

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Seattle Kennel Club MRSSA booth—noonish.

**Sunday,
March 9th 2008**

We are currently looking for people to man the booth so let Karen Lee know when you would be available and for how long. Bring your dog to the booth to showcase your breed and activities.



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Volunteers are definitely needed so come on down!

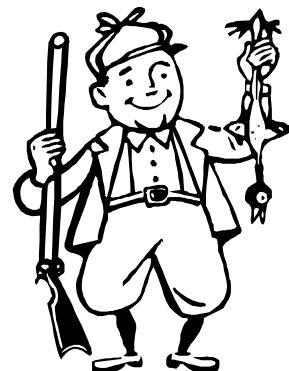
See the back page for directions.

Mission Statement

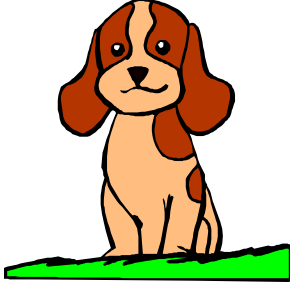
Promoting the betterment of Sporting Spaniels by encouraging development of each dog to its fullest potential.

**IMPORTANT
Time to renew that pesky little recreational permit .**

Your current one expires the end of March.



Braggs



From Tammy Hall—Birdie (now MACH Perdrix's Cinnamon Teal SH OF NAP NJP) received her MACH on February 16th in Elma.

Cisco (now Timeless Quizmaster MH MX MXJ RN) earned his Rally Novice title on February 24th at Argus Ranch.

From Linda Fraser—Our Am/Cdn CH Flyway Creswick's Ticonderoga, "Ty", accepted his invitation to Westminster Kennel Club's 132nd Show and took his very first flight to New York. Courtesy of Alaska Airlines Ty flew into Newark and was met by his own special taxi limo driver, Gail from PetEx, who escorted him to the Hotel Pennsylvania. Ty enjoyed the hotel's amenities including the Piddle and Poo Parlour in the basement, and the Jog A Dog, and the Booster Baths, and found the room very much like the kennel he never sleeps in at home. Madison Square Gardens was more than a bit crowded, but Scott Price, his new handler, made him feel very much at home.

In competition he was comfortable in the venue and accepting of his position as "also ran" but then got onto his role in the benching area as Mr. Congeniality! He thinks he was probably the only dog there who had about a thousand pictures taken, and had more than enough girls and kids rub his tummy! As an ambassador of the breed he truly enjoyed his 50 seconds of fame and now has great plans to follow his mother and grandmother into the field! Gail was there at 5:30 on Wednesday morning to whisk him back to the airport, it's wonderful to have reliable friends in strange places!

More events to attend

Western Washington Events—you are welcome to attend

March 15: Puppy Training Seminar, Auburn. See flyer on MRSSA group

May 10: Hunt Test Training Clinic, Koopman Farm (west of Rochester). This clinic will be devoted to training specifically for the Hunt test and will focus on all three levels; Junior, Senior, Master and all categories; field work, hunt dead, water work, water blind.

May 24-26: Hunt Test Cluster (with CSCA), Fort Lewis. This is a coordinated event with the Clumber Club which will hold their portion on Sunday the 25th.

June 14: Shooting Dog Stake (similar to our Fun Hunt). Details are being planned. Judges will be Rob Barlow & possibly Shelly Barlow. Location to be announced.

Sept 27 & 28: WWESSC Field Trial. Location TBD.

Preparing for Field Days

With the spring field training days approaching, now's the time to brush up on yardwork with your spaniel. Having the foundation of your dog doing well on the basics such as sit, stay, come, and dummy retrieves in your backyard or a nearby park, will be a benefit when you get him in the field. If you don't have those basics, it's harder to make progress when you're out in the field and working him on birds. For example if a spaniel won't do a reliable dummy retrieve in the yard, don't be surprised by "puppy parade" or "keep away" antics when he's got a bird out in the field. So a basic obedience class is recommended... you could just do it yourself at home but I find going to class keeps me motivated and making better progress (besides also getting the dog socialized and used to other dogs, people, car rides, etc.).

Here's one thing to work on at home, a hands free method of linesteading. The sit-stay is the first step toward getting your spaniel linesteady at water (which is one of the performance differences in moving up from Junior to Senior level of hunt tests). First work on getting a solid sit-stay with you at varying distances from the dog, up to at least a minute. Then leave him on a sit-stay, walk several paces away and turn to face him. Give a reminder "hup" toot on the whistle, reinforced with a "hup" hand signal, and toss the dummy back over your shoulder. In this way, you are in a blocking position to make it likely he'll stay, or if he breaks to catch and correct him by setting him back where he was hupped. If he broke, pick up the dummy yourself and try again. When he stays sometimes tell him to retrieve, and sometimes pick up the dummy yourself.

When your spaniel is solid on this, start to move to one side so when you toss out the dummy you're not directly in his path. Gradually keep moving your position till you are throwing the dummy from beside or even behind the dog. Keep picking up the dummy yourself sometimes. Also vary the timing between the throw and your fetch command. The next step will be having a help do the throwing, since that'll be the scenario at a test.

Be working on this and other basics and we'll see you out at the training days.

Submitted by Karen Lee

Homework for Field days



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We're on the Web!
www.sportingspaniels.org

Treasurer's Report

	Mar
Beginning Balance	924.46
Deposits	
Disbursements	
Ending balance	
Savings	3070.06

Directions:

From the North and South

I-5 and the Alaskan Way Viaduct both have exits near Qwest Field & Event Center. From I-5 there are exits at James Street, 4th Avenue, and Airport Way that will direct you to the facility.

From the East

Qwest Field & Event Center can be reached by both I-90 and SR 520 from the east. From I-90, follow the signs to Fourth Avenue South and turn right. Turn right onto South Royal Brougham Way. From SR 520, take I-5 South, then take either the James Street, 4th Avenue, or Airport Way exits to place you in proximity to the facility.

Officers

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