



Sporting Tails

April / May 2008

Meeting Dates

- **April 27—Scatter Creek**
- **May 3+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 Scatter creek field day

**Sunday,
April 27, 2008**

Get your dogs prepped for the May hunt tests by attending the field day in April. Meeting will be held to mesh with PSESSA's meeting because there are overlapping members.

**Saturday,
May 3, 2008**

This meeting will be held in conjunction with the hunt tests and will be held during the lunch break, if possible.

See the back page for directions.

IMPORTANT
Time to renew that pesky little recreational permit .

Last year's permit has now expired.



Mission Statement

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

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Braggs

No braggs received this month.



Helpers Wanted:

We have many, varied duties with which you can fill your weekend and help the club at the same time.

We need planters, shaggers, runners and marshalls—Oh MY!

So.... Come on down, get with Karen Lee, Kiki Unger, Lynn Winchester, Dan Connell and they will point you in the right direction. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Western Washington Events—you are welcome to attend

More events to attend

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.

Utilizing the Fun Match

Fun matches can be a great time to test your dog regarding ring readiness. Before going to the match, it would be prudent to decide what your goals are.

Are you testing to determine ring readiness? If so, you should approach the match as though it were a real show. Dress in a similar manner. Arrive in the same time frame as you would a trial, set up a crate as you would at a trial, use no treats or your voice in the ring except where appropriate. If the performance goes downhill, be prepared to go back to 'training mode' for the rest of the run. You do not want to send the wrong message to the dog about the show ring.

If you are using the match to train, have a basic plan in mind. If one exercise is a problem be prepared with any props you may need. For example, if the drop on recall is a possible issue, have your throw chain or bean bag at the ready to drop the dog if they ignore the signal, if the problem is anticipation of the drop, be prepared to NOT drop the dog during the exercise to deal with this problem. If you may need a flexi or other items, have them ringside.

Sign up for 2 runs and use the 2nd run to focus on problems encountered in the 1st run. I've found it more beneficial to focus on problems encountered in the first run rather than do an entire 2nd run thru because there really are no 2nd chances at a show and I want the dog to get it right the first time. The 2nd run will always be 'training mode'. If the first run is great, I would probably not even do a 2nd one, or maybe just do a Novice heel free to simulate a run-off.

If you are still trying to find out how your dog ticks, vary your routine to determine what works best for your dog. Your dog may work best with an extensive warm-up, or a warm-up done an hour before entering the ring with quick reminders just before going in. Maybe your dog likes crating in a quiet area or enjoys the bustle of the show. Maybe a walk around the grounds helps the dog settle into 'show mode'. While some things may not be under your control, when you have a choice—isn't it best to do what is comfortable for your dog? All this leads to getting the best performance you can.

Fun matches are a great tool, plan ahead to take advantage of the benefits.

Fun match prep



Mount Rainier Sporting Spaniel Association

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

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	
Deposits	
Disbursements	
Ending balance	694.46
Savings	3071.88

Directions:

From I 5

Take exit #95 toward Littlerock

Turn LEFT on Case Road

Continue South for several miles.

There are 3 areas to meet:

1. Across from the moving highway sign.
2. Gravel parking lot w/ outhouse— On Right
3. Turn RIGHT on 180th St. continue to a T, turn RIGHT and jog Left into a parking lot

Officers

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