



Sporting Tails

July 2007

Meeting Dates

- July 21— Field Day
- Aug 12 — Field Day and Cleanup
- Sept — Labor Day Hunt test Cluster
- Oct/Nov—TBD
- Dec —Christmas Party

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Scatter Creek Saturday, July 21st.

The meeting will be held noonish.

See the back page for directions.



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Fun Hunt Results

MRSSA 2007 Fun Hunt, June 17 at Gryphon Ranch

- 1st - "Sage" and Al Defalco
- 2nd - "Flint" and Pete Evele
- 3rd - "Tom" and Barbara Defalco
- 4th - "Penn" and Gene Rivers

There were 9 dog/handler teams competing. 1st place won a portrait gift certificate, and 2nd through 4th won sketches of their dogs. The ranch is a nice facility, with different cover conditions in various fields.

Mission Statement

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

Braggs



From Tammy Hall—Now that the month is over and the orange rosettes have been counted, it's time to brag.

Me and mine have been deeply absorbed in field training since mid February preparing for this month's hunt tests, the final one taking place today. We participated in hunt tests on May 5th and 6th (at Scatter Creek) and 3 days of hunt tests over the Memorial Day weekend (at Ft. Lewis). I am incredibly proud to announce two new titles.

Birdie (Perdrix's Cinnamon Teal MX NAP MXJ NJP) picked up her SH on May 5 and her litter-mate **Sortie** (Perdrix's Drummer in the Woods OA OAJ SH) picked up his MH on Saturday. I want to add that Sortie went from junior through MH (plus one extra pass) without failing a hunt test. The only failure he had was today at the water ("no way...I'm bushed. If you want that smelly duck, you get it yourself!!!!").

Cisco earned two additional legs toward his MH on May 5 and 6 but I was unable to run him this weekend as he injured his (good) shoulder and I had to pull him (although he thought he was just fine), otherwise he would have likely finished his MH as well. Oh well, once he heals there will be another chance for him. I guess when he gets his MH, he doesn't want to share the glory with anyone, least of all his brother, Sortie!!!

Send in the Brags

Treasurer's Report:

May Checking

Previous Balance	675.68
Disbursements	883.31
Deposits	2421.75
End Balance	2214.12

Mar Saving

Beginning Balance	2555.35
interest + deposits	1.31
disbursements	500.00
Ending Balance	2056.66

New Members:

Hunt Test Schedule

For the Labour Day Weekend

Aug 31	CECSF
JH	Julie and Bob Wickwire
SH, MH	Margaret and Keith Lindsey

Sept 1	PSESSA
JH	Margaret and Keith Lindsey
SH, MH	Julie and Bob Wickwire

Sept 2	CSCA
JH	Barb DeFalco and Ron Carver
SH, MH	Al DeFalco and Dave Motter

Sept 3	MRSSA
JH	Al DeFalco and Dave Motter
SH, MH	Barb DeFalco and Ron Carver

Mike and Janet Warner and Katie Effert were voted into Membership at the June Meeting. Please add their names to your roster.

Training Wheels

As our population grows older we will be seeing more wheelchairs in the show ring. Not only will there be wheel-chaired folks competing with you in the classes, but some will be judging. To help your dog become accustomed to working around wheelchairs it would be prudent to follow a basic plan of desensitizing .

It is not necessary to actually have a real, working wheelchair. You can find them at various training centers where they are used for Canine Good Citizen tests but I've found these are often old wheelchairs and do not work well—if you use one of these chairs their operation is often choppy and unpredictable and can create problems. Real folks who are wheelchair bound are very adept at maneuvering and their chairs are in tip top condition.

If you think about it, your dog is most concerned about getting hit by the wheeled object so if you expose your dog to all manner of wheeled conveyances and none of them touch or bump your dog, you have come a long way toward desensitizing your dog to all wheeled items.

Anything on wheels will do; grocery carts, children's toys, and your dog show roly-cart are readily available. At first, walk or train your dog amongst the moving objects—I like the local Safeway for this, both strollers and carts abound there. Move on to practice a safe stand for exam. Place your dog in a stand stay and have someone you trust move a wheeled object past your dog, be sure the dog sees the object approach. Start at a bit of a distance parallel to the dog and work in closer, always staying parallel to the dog and approaching from the front. Watch the dog for any stress and offer encouragement verbally or if you need to—feed the dog while the wheeled object is moved past.

When your dog shows no reaction to the wheeled object, have the person driving the object stop next to the dog and do a novice exam. They may have to reach over or through the object to accomplish this but the main thing is to get your dog used to the arm coming toward them from the wheeled object. I generally do the first novice exams by touching the shoulder, tail, then the head and progress to the headfirst exam they will get in the ring. If your wheels are stable, you can progress to the moving stand for exam which is a breed exam without bite or testicle check, and finally, for your breed dog, they will need the complete exam.

Depending upon your dog, you could progress through these steps in a single session. It is always important when training to not train a fearful dog—they can't learn anything; so if your dog expresses fear, it is important to go back to a successful step and quit training for a bit. When you commence training again, begin at the successful step for a few goes before trying the next step. Progressing slowly, but surely, will save you time in the long run and help the dog exhibit without concern for wheels.

Getting used to
Wheelchairs

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Directions to Scatter Creek

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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