

# COCHISE BIRD DOG CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOL 1

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## NEW DVD'S:

We have recently added the complete set of DVD's that were made at the Gibbons-West seminar in Texas in May. One has been available for some time and it is specifically on teaching your dog the Force Fetch methods employed by Gibbons. The dogs are taught on the ground, no tables, no toe or ear pinches. The pinch collar is the only tool used. Chris Sterner's dog Holly, just recently completed this training using these methods as Mike learned over the years. The second set of DVD's are the filming of the seminar sessions using dogs pulled from the audience, no previously trained dogs as are present in many of the videos off the shelf. They cover the entire method from start to finish work. If you have not seen the training that Mike has done with several of the dogs in the club now then they are highly recommended to help you understand the process better. I remain a firm believer in these Gibbons-West techniques as opposed to the many other methods that are generally accepted. They are a streamlined and humane approach and when done correctly apply little or no pressure to the dog in training. The training in the group situation is preferred over the traditional back yard training methods used by many trainers. The dvd's are available for loan by contacting me or you can purchase your own set if interested by

contacting the following: Brad Higgins ([hig@vfr.net](mailto:hig@vfr.net)) who recorded the seminar and is producing dvd's upon request. Dave H.

## INTRODUCING YOUR DOG TO THE BIRDS & GUN

By Mike Jones

Well you have done it. You have chosen the type of pointer you want and you have obtained the pup of you desires. However or whatever method of choosing you used you are now feeling the urge to get started. The problem is though that most of the books and videos will tell you to socialize the pup but not for how long. So to get started let us discuss a few rule of thumb that have stood many in good stead. Pointers and GSP will mature faster than Setters, Brittany's or Vizlas. So what to do and when comes into the picture immediately. Most pointers are old enough to chase down a pigeon during there third month other breeds should wait until the forth or fifth month. Pointers and GSP will be ready to introduce to the gun at seven or eighth months the rest should wait until the eighth or ninth month. Resisting the urge is perhaps the hardest part of this.

The next problem the new owner/trainer has is that either he or she likes to see the pup run down pigeons. I sometimes believe that this desire is almost as strong as the pup's desire to do it. It should be noted that no more than five pigeons should be used in this process unless you have a problem dog. Since it will take at least three birds to introduce the gun you are only left with two birds for the pup to run down. The reason behind this is that more than that will begin to teach the dog to chase and that can cause problems later during training. One solution to this is after you have had your pup run down two birds to build its desire you can use fresh killed birds to throw for it to encourage its retrieving.

The next item to talk about in the no – no column is something I have heard for years. Under no circumstances take your pup to a rifle range and stake him out so that he gets used to gun fire. This has been recommended in many books and magazines over the years. If you ever meet a sportswriter that recommends this be assured that he or she is an idiot. I can think of no faster way to create a gun shy pup. The other most common way is to take the young dog hunting before training that has not been introduced to the gun first and shoot the first bird it points right over it.

Now that we have talked about what not to do let's discuss what to do. Well some of it you have already done. After letting the pup run down his birds you have been throwing the fresh killed ones at the training sessions for him. In the distance he is seeing birds flying and blank guns being used sometimes even a shotgun. This is great training. But now is the time to get serious so what we do is set the bird up to be chased by the

pup. What we are after is one that can still fly and stay out of reach for awhile to give the pup the opportunity to chase and get real excited. Next we fire the blank pistol while watching for any signs of a negative reaction. If none occur fire the gun again as he is catching the bird. At the next session which can occur later during that training session do the same process with a shotgun but be sure and point the muzzle away from the pup. Now for the hard part put the pup up for a day or two. Then set the stage with a caged pigeon for the pup to chase. If the situation presents it and you can shoot the bird down right in front of the pup do so if not fire the shotgun over the pup as he catches the bird. That should do it and the pup is ready for the field.

## **CABELA'S ORDER**

Once again the CBDC is putting together an order for clothing and hats. If we can obtain at least six items in each category we will be able to save \$5.00 per embroidery article.

The cost will be whatever the item is plus \$5.00 for the embroidery of the Club logo. We are also charging \$1.00 per order to defray the shipping cost.

Cabela's will embroidery almost every article of clothing they offer except for item that common sense tells us that the material will not hold the stitches. (i.e. Mesh ) So if you have a coat, vest, or shirt that you would like send in your order.

Contact Mike Jones at 520-720-4142 or 331 Branding Iron, St. David, AZ 85630. Orders must be received by the end of Aug so that we have the items by Oct.

**HUNTING TESTS:**

Name	Location	Event Type	Event Date	Opening Date	Closing Date
<a href="#">Rio Salado Vizsla Club, Inc.</a>	Mormon Lake, AZ	<a href="#">HT</a>	Aug 13, 2005	No Date Available	Aug 3, 2005
<a href="#">Rio Salado Vizsla Club, Inc.</a>	Mormon Lake, AZ	<a href="#">HT</a>	Aug 14, 2005	No Date Available	Aug 3, 2005

**FIELD TRIALS:**

Desert German Shorthaired Pointer Club, White Mountains, AZ, August 26. Connie J. Gyde—(928) 468-6180, secretary, HC 6, Box 1307, Payson, AZ 85541.