

COCHISE BIRD DOG CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOL 1

JULY 2005

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held June 19th at Fish Canyon after a Club fun Hunt. A number of issues were discussed by the members. The Club has decided to seek AKC affiliation and hopes to be able to hold Hunt Tests for pointing dogs once we obtain that affiliation. It was also discussed at this time whether or not to have a shotgun raffle again. The meeting concluded with the election of officers and board members.

TRAINING TIP

By Mike Jones

Beginning with the Pinch Collar

Using the method sponsored by the CBDC for training of a pointing breed is predicated on the ability of the handler to have his or her dog stand still. This statement while easy to make is in fact one of the more difficult things to achieve. Yet once the dog has mastered this simple maneuver the rest of the training is nothing more than a variant of this ability.

The first step is accomplished through the use of the Pinch Collar. We begin by attaching the Pinch Collar and Check Cord to the dog. The handler should insure that good contact will be

made with the dog and that the Collar will release smoothly and quickly after each use. This procedure is much like what is taught in obedience work using a Chock Chain. One of the most common errors made by the handler is the distance between him and the dog. I like to keep the dog within five (5) to eight (8) feet of me when beginning. This allows me to easily slide my hand closer to the dog during the beginning maneuvers to maintain control. The conceptual basis for what we are doing maintains that in every step we are setting a stage or situation that affords the dog only two options the right one or the wrong one. Using this as a guide we begin leading the dog out into the training area seeking a spot that will afford us freedom of movement and view. Then by moving your hand closer down the Check Cord next to the collar begin giving the dog a series of short, sharp tugs on the cord. We are not trying to stop the dog or impede its progress but rather irritate it until it comes to a stop naturally. Once the dog stops slide your hand down within an inch or two of the buckle on the Pinch Collar so that you can impede any movement to the right or left. Placing your other hand on the tail of the dog administer a short, sharp tug with the Pinch Collar and set the dog back an inch or two at the same time. Immediately begin stroking the dog and petting it to calm it down and

show your pleasure that it is doing what you want. After repeated episodes of this you will find that the dog learns to stop on its own to the command (a tug on the Pinch Collar).

Once the dog stops and stands to the command you should begin giving the dog more room and begin backing your hand away from the collar. As you gain success with this begin incorporating new movements into the process. Begin walking in a semi circle about its hind quarters at first working to eventually being able to walk in a full circle about the dog at a distance of five (5) to six (6) feet from the animal. **ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE CORECTIONS ARE WHAT TRAIN THE DOG.** This caution means simply that as you incorporate the new move your dog will move or shuffle its feet. When ever that occurs apply the correction which is the sharp tug and set back.

Finally always remember that this is all new and confusing not only to you but to the dog. Therefore try not to make sudden and unnecessary movements. Many is the time I have seen the dog turn right or left at the command tug and the handler attempt to drag it back on coarse with the Check Cord with his hand several feet from the collar. Remember to think first and than do. Set the stage so that you have control. Move calmly with a plan. **PAY ATTENTION TO THE DOG** if you wish to visit and watch your neighbor leave the dog at home. Next month we will talk about the use of the Electric Collar to replace the Pinch Collar for providing the Command to stop and stand.

The concept we use is that the collars give the Whoa command. Latter it is a excellent idea to incorporate the verbal whoa command for obedience both in the field and at home. For field work this verbal command has proven to be inadequate for a multitude of reasons not the least being that your dog will be out of sight and must perform its task based solely on its training.



FUN HUNT

The Fun Hunt conducted prior to the Picnic on Sunday June 19th was well received by the membership. The team of Chris Orndorff and Tom Pescod were the big winners. Yet it should be noted that several other dogs performed well and the scores were closely bunched at the end of the event. Chris Orndorff was very pleased with it all as he had just finished breaking his dog Babe the week before. Chris Sterner and Holly were also highly pleased with the events of the day as Chris had finished Force Fetch Breaking Holly the Wed prior to the event. She managed four retrieves directly to hand and it should

be noted that Chris appeared a bit puffed up.

As a sidebar Doug Amos attended a Hunter Class Event sponsored by the Arizona Pointing Dog Club the week-end before and from all reports did quite well.

At the present time a number of members have dogs ready to advance in there training and we are beginning to produce a number of well broke dogs. So let's have a good summer and get back to work this fall.

CLUB WORK DAY

Dave held a work day to repair the bird pen and get the facility ready for the Bob White Quail the Club is going to purchase. Folks the turn out was a dismal failure. The only members who showed up were Chris Orndorff and Jim Klemski. Now we all know how difficult it is to get motivated and come to one of these things but we also know that without our support we can not expect the quality we have been receiving each and every training week-end. We will have to reschedule this event for another day. Even though Chris and Jim accomplished much there is still more to do. The pen must be made secure or the investment we will have in the Quail will be lost. If there is one thing I have learned about Bob White Quail is that they look for a way to die and the one thing they don't need is an excuse. So lets get this on our schedule next time.