



Newsletter

Volume 1

July/August 2006

The Board members for the Cochise Bird Dog Club are as follows:

Dave Higgins	President	(520)378-4114
Mike Jones	Vice President	(520)720-4142
Jeanette Higgins	Treasurer	(520)378-4114
Barbara Hershberger	Secretary	(520)455-0060
Chris Orndorff	Board Member	(520)458-1584
Chris Sterner	Board Member	(520)439-4507
Lon Rominger	Board Member	(520)803-0912

Treasurer's Report

As of August 1, 2006 there is a total of **\$834.85**

THE DAWG PORCH

Dave

YUK, SUMMER DOLDRUMS.!!

Well we finally caught a break in the weather here this past week or so. The heat had really built up and we had been running our a/c more than we have ever since mid-July. Hopefully the rains have broken or at least brought some relief to our drought conditions. A few of us that had young dogs close to being broke on pigeons continued working through the summer months. It was early and quick to get the work in before it got too hot. I think we need to put some more variety in our locations and mix it up more for the dogs. The same places over and over again tend to get a dog use to the particular routine. Mike Starkey stuck through the hot summer months and both of his German Shorthairs have progressed nicely. Admittedly Mike was concerned about one of the dogs not showing the initiative in his bird work that the litter mate did. Sometimes it takes time to get the switch turned on in some dogs and that is why being slow and methodical is really

the fast way to a trained dog. Treating them with a cookie cutter approach will not get the job done and adapting to a particular dog's disposition and tendencies is preferred. Danny Huckaba got his young Deitering GSP to the point he was broke and stepped into the world of Force breaking him to retrieve. Sticking with it will pay dividends. I also have to make note of Mike Jones progress with his young English Setter, Buster. At just 15 months of age he is broke and retrieves on command. All of these capabilities have been taught to him by Mike, a testament to Mike's abilities and knowledge. English Setters are known for being on the "soft" side. I would also say that an underlying "trick" to Mike's ability to advance a dog is to be calm and be patient. He never loses his patience with a young dog. Buster is pointing birds staunchly with a "12 o'clock tail" and I am sure Mike will get an advanced hunt title on him very quickly. Good luck on that and all of you who have benefited from Mike's time with your dog should appreciate his support to the club and to your pocket books! I spent a lot of money with pro trainers so I know of what I speak! I got my young year old pointer Buck pretty solid on his birds now and he is about where I wanted him to be before I take him to West Texas later this month. I can control him with an e-collar nick and he will stop to flush and point solidly for a bird to be killed. The wild quail in West Texas will take him to school this month and he will learn a lot from them. They will teach a dog a lot of things that can't be taught with a pen raised bird that lets your dog creep up on them or in some cases catch them. In all cases you don't want your dog to be catching birds unless he has a motivation problem as a youngster. Even then you don't want to let him catch a lot of birds or you will have staunch problems with him.

We will get things fired back up for training in September. I still have a quail release program that I would like to do next to me. I plan on laying out a walking course so we can hit two or three different coveys of pre-released birds in a work out.

Our member, Buck Mantsch, waited a long time before he got his first bird dog, just this past spring. Buck has been a bird hunter all of his life but never had his own bird dog until now. Olga, a 4 year old GSP is well trained so Buck needed to educate himself on handling her and getting up to speed with her level of training. He has been working hard on that for several months. Along the way she has managed to get bitten by a snake in Casa Grande, ripped her leg open on barbwire recently and has just been diagnosed with Valley Fever. In just these few short months Buck has managed to experience all of the dog ownership problems that generally take several years to experience. Buck's hunting experiences with her this fall will quickly erase the current problems that he has had since he acquired her. I have never dealt with the Valley Fever problem so if there is any advice or tips you can give Buck please give him a call.

Dixie, the beloved pointer of Orndorff's was put down this past month due to kidney failure. I told Chris that I had a story for him about her. I had her in Iowa with me in the fall of 2000 right before Chris bought her. I was working her on horseback and she was showing me that she was starting to get the idea of her training and demonstrating that she understood standing on her birds, etc. On the edge of a feed plot, she swung into the wind and went on a nice point, standing solidly while I approached the point on my horse. When I swung out of the saddle to approach the bird for a flush out came a wild turkey much to her and my surprise. She never chased, but swung around to watch the big

bird set its wings and fly into a grove of trees. She was so excited when that big bird launched as was I but she held her ground with it and looked at me with great wonderment, in saying “wow boss how come you never showed me those before?” Our minds are filled with memories of the dogs we have owned and cherished through the years and in a special way that is one of their gifts to us.

IN MEMORIAM



**Orndorff's Dixie, Stronghold's Dixie Chik, November 2000
Aug 1998-July 2006**

I sold a pup last week to a couple from Tucson, Marco DeLeon and Diane Crane. I gave them a one year membership to the club. I am not sure they want to learn about training bird dogs or even hunting her, but they are motivated to making her a well trained dog and one to have around them and to take on their frequent outdoor activities. I normally would not sell a pointer to a family that isn't going to use them for their intended purpose, but Marco and Diane seem motivated and interested in doing strenuous activities with their new pup. I paid the club for the membership and would encourage other members who are selling pups to get the new owners involved in the club and in training their new dog. There is a lot of osmosis that goes on just rubbing elbows within the club and tapping the knowledge that exists.

INTRO TO THE GUN

It is that time of the year when I always like to put out a cautious reminder to anyone who has a young dog that they are anxious to get to the field for opening day. I have learned over the years (and that is a few) that there is a right way and a wrong way to get your new pup engaged in hunting and especially introduction to the gun and birds. Bird dogs are influenced by two essential elements, man made and inherited. Familiarization with gun fire and loud noises is a responsibility of the owner and it is very important to go about that introduction properly. You don't take your dog to the annual fire works show or to the trap and skeet range for familiarization to the gun. Anyone taking that approach is going to have problems. As a result of improper introduction to the gun you will have a

gun shy dog and one that will not hunt. That is man caused and not inherited. I don't expect anyone in the club to have this problem as there is plenty of experience available to help you with introduction if you feel you need some help. This is critical if you have a young dog that has not had the correct exposure. Let me just highlight some do's and don'ts on taking your young dog hunting for the first time:

1. Do introduce them to gun fire and birds long before opening season. The club has birds and can help accomplish this if it hasn't been done yet.
2. Do associate the gun fire with birds and the act of chasing or hunting them
3. Do not let him point a bird and then fire a gun for the first time over his head while he is pointing the bird.
4. Don't take all your buddies with you the first time you take your dog hunting.
5. Don't allow uncontrolled firing at flying birds where the dog is not aware of what is going on and has not seen the birds fly. I usually like to restrict my hunting with a young dog to shooting and hopefully killing only those birds that are pointed.
6. Do be particular in selecting buddies to be a member of your bird hunting party. Invite only those that are experienced in hunting with dogs and know the basic rules of safety and of firing around dogs.
7. Don't take them to the skeet/trap range until they have been thoroughly introduced to gun fire in association to birds and bird work.

OUR ANNUAL SHOTGUN RAFFLE

Chris Orndorff has led this year's initiative for our annual shotgun raffle. We are in the process of getting flyers out to all members along with a picture of the DeHann 20 Gauge O/U shotgun. We will conduct the drawing, 16 Dec at our Annual Christmas Party which is scheduled for the Elgin Community Center. This is our primary source of revenue and has enabled us to improve the resources of the club with acquisition of equipment and material. We hope you all can support the fund raiser in any manner possible.

Tip of the Month

Tune into National Geographic Channel and watch "The Dog Whisper". Cesar Milan has some interesting ideas on how to work with problem dogs. His motto, there are no bad dogs only bad owners.

CLUB FUN HUNT

WE WANT YOU!! We are planning on having a fun hunt in conjunction with the Hot Shots Youth Clay Target club from Sierra Vista. We need someone to head that event up which is planned for October sometime. Step up and lead the effort on this important project for the club and for the youth in our area. Let us know who is interested in leading this important project. Without a volunteer to chair we will not be able to sponsor this event.

MOCK FIELD EVENTS DAY

Some time this fall, preferably a weekend in November I think we should have a Mock Field Events day. In my saddle time as a judge I have seen lots of errors made by handlers and I think we can improve on that situation at least for our

