

# MHSA News

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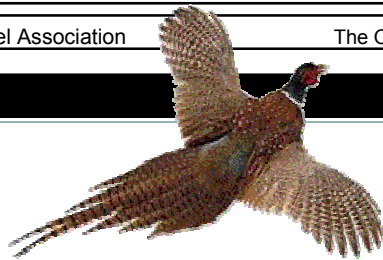
The Only American Kennel Club Licensed All Spaniel Hunting Dog Club

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Owners of unsteady hunting spaniels rejoiced last month upon reviewing the list of advantages of an unsteady dog in the hunting fields; this week weep. It is now time to explain why steady dogs for reasons unrelated to the steadiness/unsteadiness equation, usually outperform unsteady dogs in the hunting fields. It is not, as one might expect, due to their steadiness. Rather, it is due to the experience they have received while being trained to become steady.

The average unsteady dog gets a bit of training during the year and then is hunted in the fall. The steady dog, on the other hand, is owned by someone who trains constantly throughout the year. Without that training, the dog would not become nor remain steady. Constant training for steadiness means constant bird contacts. Those training experiences teach a dog to find, trail and retrieve in varying scenting conditions.

By the time hunting season in the fall rolls around, the steady dog has had more bird contacts than the relatively inexperienced unsteady dog will receive in a whole season of hunting. The steady dog will find birds the inexperienced, unsteady dog would pass. It will trail runners the unsteady dog loses. It will find cripples the unsteady dog cannot catch. All this will be the result of experience gained while being trained for steadiness.

The advantage of steadiness is not what confers advantage in the hunting field; instead, it is what the dog learned on its own while being trained to be steady. Teaching steadiness means birds tossed over the dog's head, birds found and flushed but not shot, and birds flushed, shot and retrieved.

All these birds present opportunities for the dog to learn things other than steadiness: which direction on a scent trails leads to the nest and which to the running bird, to push on and regain a scent trail on the far side of a plowed strip, to follow the flight line of a hit bird beyond the point where it went out of the dogs field of vision and to keep in contact with the handler while in the field.

All these things, save perhaps the last, a dog must learn on its own. The steady dog also benefits from what its owner learns from all this training time in the field. While training steadiness a dog's problems with certain challenges are discovered. The owner then structures incrementally more difficult situations to enable the dog to overcome the problems.

The dog must find the solution to the fall across the plowed strip, over the swale or tree line, across the pond. We do not teach the dog to solve these riddles. The dog does that. The best we can do is make the challenge incrementally harder as the dog learns. Noticed while training, these problems can be identified and presented in dog-solvable form.

### Presidents' Letter Continued...

When occurring in the hunting field, these problems are often to challenging for the dog when first presented, and due to the pressure for a solution, hunters don't even give the dog a chance. How many hunters have you seen handle a dog to a wild bird fall which was not seen by a dog? Most run to the fall with the dog and start it hunting. They know the challenge in the form presented is beyond the capability of the dog, so the dog never learns.

Last month I said the unsteady dog would bring more birds to bag. For equally experienced dogs, this is true. What is seldom true, however, is that unsteady dogs are as experienced as steady dogs, so steady dogs win!

Next month, to continue dealing with controversies, we'll have a thought-provoking discussion of ideal hunting pattern versus what judges look for in trial and hunt test patterns. Are they the same?

See you all at the club picnic on the 9<sup>th</sup>!

Dick Bend

# MHSA Fall Hunt Test

Preparations are coming together for the MHSA fall Hunt test September 6th and 7th at Major Ave. Hunt Club! Premiums will be posted soon for those interested in entering dogs and we want to encourage everyone to come out to watch the dogs work. Saturday after the test, approximately 2:00 p.m., we will be doing our traditional pheasant BBQ dinner and raffle at the club house.

\*\*If you are interested in getting a "close up view" of the dogs working, volunteer to carry the shag basket in a field! You will be walking right behind the judges who will put the birds in the basket for you. It is the best seat in the house!\*\*

Also, if you could help with bird planting, marshaling or organizing the raffle we need you too!

Please contact:

Kim or Bethann Wiley, Hunt Test Co-Chair people [bethannwiley@yahoo.com](mailto:bethannwiley@yahoo.com) or [stonewalkercocker@yahoo.com](mailto:stonewalkercocker@yahoo.com)

651-351-0049

We look forward to seeing everyone in the field!



**2008 Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association  
Fun Trial Stakes and Rules**

**Dates: August 16, 2008**

**The Fun Trials will start at 9 AM sharp, rain or shine!**

**All Fun Trials will be held at Major Avenue Hunt Club, Glencoe - MN**

**Entry Fee - \$15/per dog for each stake**

**Purpose:** A fun, non-threatening way to learn and participate in Field Trial-style events. For all stakes except Hunting and Shooting, gunners will be provided by the MHSA Club. Ribbons will be awarded to all placing Handlers/Dogs.

**Puppy Stake:** Steady/Unsteady spaniel less than 15 months old at the time of the first Fun Trial. Open to any Handler. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel

**Junior Stake:** Handler age 16 or younger. Dog may be steady or unsteady. Handler and Dog are judged 50% each. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel. Age and titles of dog do not matter.

**Derby Stake:** Steady dog less than 2 years at the time of the first Fun Trial. Open to any Handler. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel.

**Novice Stake:** This stake is for the new dog and new handler. Dog does not need to be steady. Handler and Dog are judged 50% each. Dog or handler may not have any field trial placements. First place and High Point handler/dogs of previous years Novice Stake should retire from this category. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel.

**Open Stake:** Open to any Handler. Open to any all age steady dog. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel.

**Hunting Dog Stake:** Open to any unsteady dog. Open to any Handler. Handler does his/her own shooting. Handler and Dog are judged 50% each. Limited to 2 shells per bird. Break open action shotgun preferred but not required. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel

**Shooting Dog Stake:** Open to any steady spaniel. Handler does his/her own shooting. Handler and Dog are judged 50% each. Limited to 2 shells per bird. Break open action shotgun preferred but not required. Open to any breed of flushing spaniel

### Fun Trial Rules

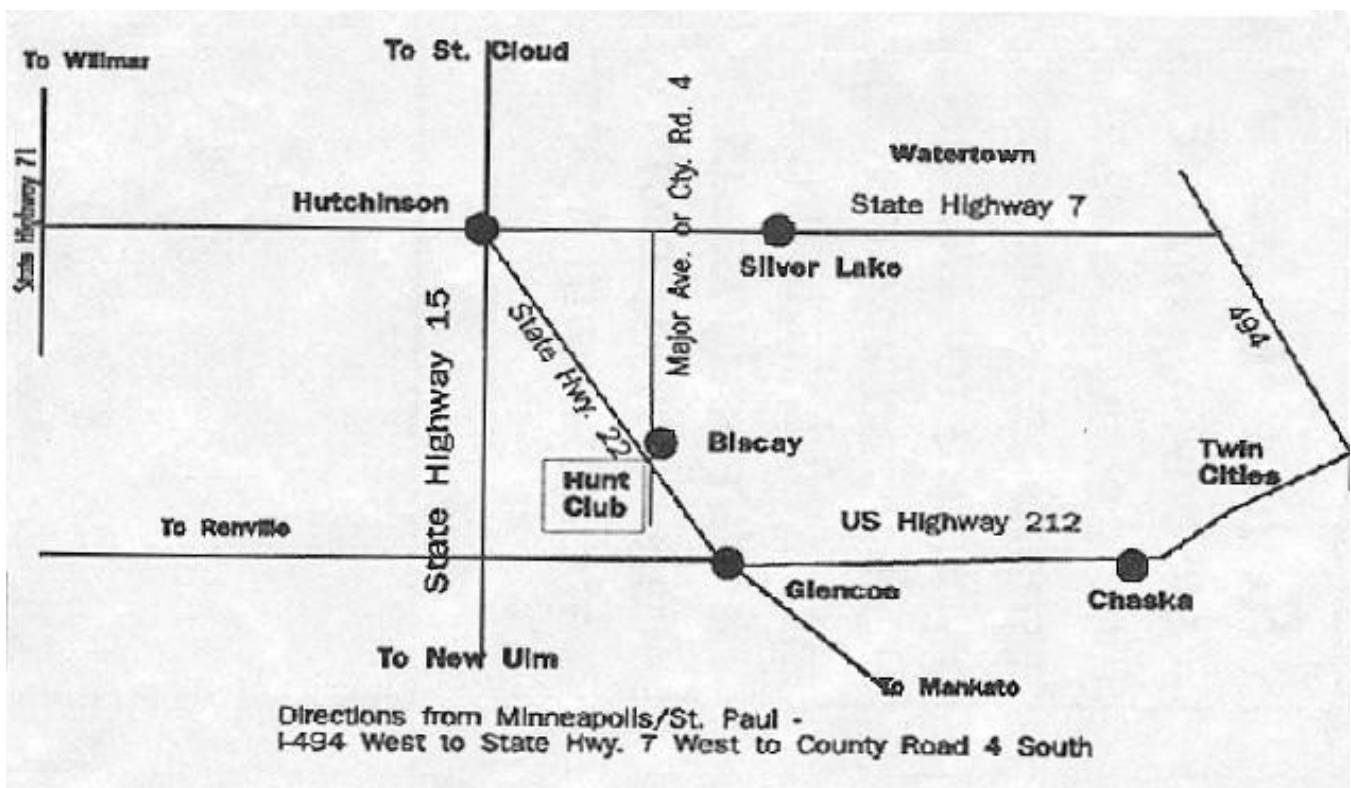
**All participants must wear one piece of blaze orange clothing above the waist while out in the field, preferably a vest. Eye protection is strongly recommended.**

- No dog in season allowed on grounds. All dogs must be on a leash, except when participating. Spaniels are not allowed to wear a collar of any type when participating.
- Unless otherwise indicated, gunners will be provided for each stake by the MHSA Club.
- Open to any breed of flushing spaniel.
- A steady dog is one that stops at the flush of the bird, and/or sound of a shot, and waits for the command to retrieve, heel, or carry on.
- The Fun Trials will use Pigeons in all stakes.
- You may enter as many stakes as you are qualified for.
- The order of the stakes will be as listed, however some stakes may be run simultaneous.
- The Fun Trials will start at 9 AM sharp, rain or shine!
- All Fun Trials will be held at Major Avenue Hunt Club - Glencoe, MN - Map below.

***If you wish to participate, or have questions, please contact:***

***Linda Simon at (320)-510-1904 or email [whistlestopkennel@hotmail.com](mailto:whistlestopkennel@hotmail.com).***

***Pre-registration is not necessary but helpful so we will have enough birds on hand.***



## ***WATER TRAINING & CLUB PICNIC***

**When:** 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 9, 2008

**Where:** 1002 Stagecoach Tr. S., Afton, MN

**Directions:** will be e-mailed to those who RSVP

### **ACTIVITIES FOR DOGS**

#### **Beginning dogs:**

Water familiarization and water play will take place on the beach where we all trained last year. Bring shorts or swimming suit if you're going to wade or swim with a young dog. This is a relatively unstructured. Handlers can spread out along the isthmus between the muddy pond on one side and the clear lake on the other and do whatever they feel is appropriate for their own dog.

#### **Experienced dogs:**

Like last year, there will be a course of retrieves from different stations which you and your dog will walk to in a hunt test like format... but no one is keeping score and you don't have to wait in line, just go to another location if one is full! Hand thrown or launched dummies may be used. Dogs can be worked at each station as long as you want, so long as you don't keep other waiting too long. Participation will require walking a total distance of approximately a quarter mile. While the length of retrieves can be adjusted to the experience level of your dog, dogs not used to water and obstacles will learn more at the beginner's area due to the nature of the following challenges:

Short marked retrieve through water clogged with weeds and lily pads.

Short marked retrieve through very dense brush and blow-downs.

Long marked retrieve in clear water

Medium marked retrieve through reeds and decoys.

Short blind retrieve across a channel.

### **ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE**

**Picnic.** We are supplying barbequed game birds and venison. The club will supply soft drinks. Bring anything else you would like for yourselves, or as potluck.

Continued on next page

**Sporting Clays.** After the picnic at Game Unlimited. Game Unlimited is a ten or fifteen minute drive from our house, so anyone interested should let me know, bring your gun and at least two boxes of shells for each round you'll be shooting, and we'll caravan to sporting clays after the picnic. There are three sporting courses to choose from, all with automatic traps, plus mini-tower and five-stand for the adventurous. Young shooters and women get a drastically reduced rate, so if you've been thinking of trying sporting, this is the time. This will also give members a chance to view some parts of Game Unlimited's superb hunting grounds comprised of more than 1,900 acres of carefully managed woods, fields, streams and lakes, all ideal for spaniel training.

### ***What to Bring***

**Food.** Anything you'd like to supply as potluck. Meat to barbeque if you don't like game birds or venison. Beer or liquor for those wanting something stronger than soft drinks... and who are not shooting sporting clays after the picnic.

**Swimming suit or wading shorts.** If you have a young dog and plan to get really wet.

**Dummies.** Bring dummies for your beginning dogs. We'll supply dummies for the advanced course, but if you have dummies your dog is used to, bring them.

**Gun & shells.** If you plan to shooting sporting clays after the picnic.

**PLEASE RSVP BY E-MAIL WITH THE NUMBER COMING SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH TO COOK**  
**[rbend@bendellingson.com](mailto:rbend@bendellingson.com)**

**INDICATE IF YOU WILL BE SHOOTING SPORTING CLAYS WHEN YOU RSVP**

***This is a great opportunity to meet new people and visit with old friends, we hope to see everyone at the picnic.***

## MHSA Merchandise Order Form

MHSA is pleased to offer the following club merchandise for sale. T-shirts, sweatshirts & hats are stocked by the Association & orders will be accepted throughout the year. Orders can be picked up at any MHSA event. If you would prefer to have your order mailed, **add \$10** to your order for shipping and handling.

Delivery will be at the event following receipt of the order. A check, made payable to **MHSA**, must accompany your order, which can be mailed to Shirley Harford - 7816 66th Ave N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428. If you have any questions regarding merchandise, please contact Shirley at [Lougeelake@comcast.net](mailto:Lougeelake@comcast.net).

Description of merchandise and order number

#5930 Fruit of the Loom Adult Short Sleeve T-shirt

Colors -Blaze Orange, Jade Green, Ash Grey, Khaki, Burgundy  
 Sizes - Small to XL      Cost - \$15.00

#1630 Sweatshirt

Colors - Blaze Orange, Ash Grey, Forest Green, Khaki, Burgundy  
 Sizes -Small to XL      Cost - \$25.00

#0504 Polo w/pocket

Colors - Ash Grey, Forest Green, Steel Grey, Orange  
 Sizes -Small to XL      Cost - \$30.00

#16130 Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt

Colors - Ash Grey, Heather Grey, Royal Blue  
 Sizes -Small to XL      Cost - \$30.00

#2110 Polyester Fleece Lined Bomber Jacket

Colors - Pine/ Charcoal, Black/Black, Black/Heather Grey  
 Sizes - Small to XL  
 Cost - With crest logo on the front \$60.00  
       - With both crest and back logo \$75.00

#6288 WXT Upland Blaze Orange Safety Cap

Sizes - One size fits all      Cost - \$15.00

#3261 Blaze Orange Cap w/2 tone Pheasant on side

Size - One size fits all      Cost - \$20.00

Two-sided MHSA Logo Mug (11oz.)

Colors - Ivory w/Burgundy      Cost \$7.00 ea. or 2 for \$12.00

MHSA Patch

Cost -\$7.50

MHSA Lapel Pin

Cost - \$5.00

**Note:** for all clothing items: 2XL sizes are available - add \$1.50 / 3XL sizes are available - add \$3.00)

Item #:	Description	Sizes	Color	Qt y.	Price each	Total Price
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
<b>SHADED AREA FOR BOMBER JACKET ONLY:</b>						
#2110	Bomber Jacket				Crest Logo	\$
					Both Lo-gos	\$
					Size Up Chrg	\$
<b>Shipping (if applicable):</b>						<b>\$</b>
<b>Order Total:</b>						<b>\$</b>

**Shipping/Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fun Trial July 20

### Puppy Stake

- 1 - Patch - Darrell Peterson
- 2 - Ferm - Brett Edstrom
- 3 - Odie - Ken Hanson
- 4 - Hayley - Darrell Peterson

### Jr. Handler

1. Abby- Josh Dresow
2. Belle- John Smith
3. Missy- Julie Smith

### Derby

1. Woodrow- Paul Mommaerts
2. Odie- Ken Hanson

### Novice

- 1 - Lizzie - Dawn Schuster
- 2 - Zorro - Paul Gergen
- 3 - Odie - Ken Hanson
- 4 - Blue - Paul Gergen

### Open

1. Blizzard- Dean Koehler
2. Sparky- Kevin Rutherford
3. Ringer- Brent Graff
4. Dusty- Chris Dartt

### Hunting Dog

1. Blue- Nadine Kohn
2. Doogie- Don Frost
3. Zorro- Paul Geren
4. Kyle- Dennis Evans

### Shooting Dog

- 1 - Buster - Kim Wiley
- 2 - Max - John Dartt
- 3 - Bacon - Dean Koehler
- 4 - Blaze - John Dartt

