

# MHSA News

Published by the Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association

The Only American Kennel Club Licensed All Spaniel Hunting Dog Club

March 2008

Volume 18 Number 3



## Officers & Board of Directors



## From the President ...

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Elsewhere in this issue you will find information on coming club events. Get them on your calendar now to avoid conflicts. The first event is the Hunt Test Judging Seminar on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the location of which has been changed to Woodbury. This is highly recommended for anyone planning to run in a hunt test. It familiarizes you with what the judges use to evaluate your dog and informs you on what you need to train for. Even if you aren't going to run in a hunt test, it will educate you on what a good hunting dog needs to know. The deadline was February 16<sup>th</sup>, but late reservations will be taken if space is available.

I've been engaging in some personal education of a different sort: polishing my shooting skills. I just returned from four days shooting sporting clays in Texas. We had a blast, in fact quite a few blasts given the 3750 shells apiece that we went through. Thank heavens for reloads and shot bought years ago, given the rising price of lead. Also thanks to the .410. We both brought five flats of .410's helping us finish each day in comfort.

All of us owe it to our dogs to spend a bit of time in the off season polishing our abilities. Although clays are definitely different than birds, being generally faster and on the other hand more predictable, they nonetheless help with the basics. Get out to a trap, skeet our sporting clays course this winter.

**Page 2: Letter from the Pres. Cont.**

**Page 3: WANTED Newsletter Editor**

**Page 4&5: Obedience and the  
Hunting Dog**

**Page 6&7: Board Meeting Minutes**

**Page 8: Da Hog !!!**

**Page 9: MHSA Merchandise  
Order Form**

**Page 10: Recipe Corner**

**Page 11: Upcoming Events**

Now here are some thoughts for those of you who run show dogs in the field. Show clipping of Spaniels results in the stiff hairs around the muzzle being cut off. There is a functional purpose served by these hairs when your dog is running in the field: they trigger a blink response when they touch grass, brush or other objects which might injure the dog's eyes.

You can test this yourself by slowly touching one of the hairs. A hand slowly approaching a dogs muzzle will not trigger a blink, but touching one of these hairs, called tylotrich hairs, will instantly cause a blink. This is because they function as rapid responding mechanoreceptors, conveying both temporal and spatial information to the dog. In other words, they tell the dog that something is about to poke it in the vicinity of the eyes, and how soon that impact will occur.

Do not rob your dog of this information. Although goggles like those worn by Crash in the accompanying photo can protect a remaining eye, your dog will have lost the depth perception necessary to properly mark downed birds. If you are hunting, trialing or hunt testing your dogs, don't clip the muzzle!

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## **DON'T FORGET !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

The dates for the MHSA Cocker Trials are May 2, 3 and 4th. Open Judges are Mike Noland and Peter Rainey. The Amateur Judges are Rumi Schroeder and Bill Boeckman, Apprentice Bethann Roettger. Puppy Judges are Deb Strohl and Linda Simon. If anyone is interested in helping they can contact Nadine.



The Spring Hunt Test will be May 10th and 11th. Bethann Roettger will be Chairing this event. If anyone is interesting in helping please contact her. The club will need marshals, bird planters, help with the raffle and banquet and a host of other tasks that it takes to put on a test.



**WANTED!**

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS A CLUB MEMBER!  
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY  
WE WILL PROVIDE BOTH TRAINING AND SUPPORT!**

**I'M SURE THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE ENJOYED THE PAST MHSA NEWS  
LETTERS AS MUCH AS I HAVE!**

**THE MHSA NEWS LETTERS NOT ONLY PROVIDE CLUB MEMBERS WITH  
UP TO DATE INFORMATION REGARDING CLUB ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS,  
THEY CAN BE VERY EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING!**

**AS A NEWS LETTER EDITOR, YOU WILL LEARN TO FORMAT AND PUT  
TOGETHER ARTICALS AND PICTURES SUBMITTED BY OTHER CLUB  
MEMBERS TO CREATE OUR NEWS LETTER.**

**(YOU WILL ALSO HAVE THE ATHORITY TO MAKE SURE OUR CLUB  
PRESIDENT HAS HIS "LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT" IN ON TIME!)  
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE THESE TALENTS OR A  
WILLINGNESS TO LEARN.**

**MHSA IS A GREAT CLUB BECAUSE WE HAVE GREAT MEMBERS!!**

**BEST REGARDS,**

**MICHAEL BURY**

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By Jon Pidde

## Obedience and the Hunting Dog

When I am at a hunt test and am watching the Master dogs at work in the field, I am always impressed by the teamwork exhibited as well as the control the handlers have over their dogs. Pass or fail, the teamwork is fun to watch. I would recommend following some of the Master dogs through the field as they try for a leg.

The Junior and senior dogs are also fun to watch. These younger dogs almost always show a lot of excitement for the field. What these dogs need is more bird experience and more control by their handlers.

When I say control I mean obedience. Obedience training starts with things as simple as teaching your dog to sit quietly by the door until after YOU go in or out. Getting your dog to stay calm until after his food is in his bowl and YOU say it's time to eat. He might be required to stay in the yard with no fence or stay out of certain rooms of your house or no barking at the doorbell. Obedience means that YOU are the boss. YOU pay the bills so your dog works for you. Good teamwork in the field starts at home.

Obedience training for the hunting fields or the hunt tests is a little more time consuming to achieve but absolutely necessary. Think about what you want while out hunting.

- (1) Stay means stay. It does not mean wait 5 or 6 seconds then off to the races.
- (2) Come means come. When you tell your dog to come, that means all the way to you and sit or stand next to you until you give another command. It does not mean taking 10 steps in your direction and that's good enough.
- (3) Heel means heel. Your dog should move with you. The dog shouldn't be like a fish on the end of your line.
- (4) When you are a guest of a farmer and you would like to come back and hunt another day, your dog should come out of your kennel and not pick a fight with the farmer's dog. He should not chase the farmer's chickens, cats, horses or cows. (Chasing the pigs is ok 😊 just kidding.) A wild dog is nobody's friend.

This month I will address Stay means Stay. An animal that can lay in one spot for a couple of hours a day when HE wants to can be taught to sit in one spot for a couple of minutes when YOU want him to. In a Hunt Test situation this means steady at the water and steady at the line in the field. While hunting this is handy if you are "posting" or maybe you need your dog to wait while you unload some excess coffee. Maybe you want your dog to wait while you sneak up on a pothole in the middle of a field looking for some ducks.

I think that it is easiest to introduce the stay at home while your dog is on leash. While your dog is sitting at your side, tell your dog to stay and take a step away from him. I give my dog a hand signal while telling him to stay (Some people will use a carpet square to define the spot to stay.) If your dog moves, just put him back gently but firmly and try again. When he stays still while you are only a step away, after 10-15 seconds step back to your dog and tell him what a good dog he was. You can reward your dog with praise, a treat or both. (I use praise but both will work.) Work up to standing at the end of the leash for 1 minute. Introduce distractions like someone rolling a ball past. When your dog is staying for this for at least a minute you can drop the leash and start working farther away. When your dog will stay for a minute while you are 30 feet away it is time to take the leash off. Start all over again up close to your dog off leash and work out to 30 feet away. ***Part of the training process is your dog has to learn to trust you. He has to trust that you will not leave him anywhere he might get hurt.***

**A DOG LEARNS FASTEST WHEN GOOD BEHAVIOR IS REWARDED. GIVE YOUR DOG LOTS OF POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT.**

At a certain point when your dog *understands* that stay means stay, then it will be necessary to introduce consequences for breaking a stay. If your dog breaks a stay, a low voiced NO along with picking your dog up and placing him back where he belongs might be enough. It is never necessary to yell at your dog when he is close to you. Dogs have good hearing so it is only necessary to teach your dog to listen to you the first time you say something. While training you should tell your dog stay ONCE and then enforce it. If you get in the habit of saying stay 3-4 times, you teach your dog that he doesn't have to stay unless you tell him 3-4 times. Being patient and consistent in your expectations will help your dog learn what you want quicker. If you continue to have problems, you might get more ideas from some of the more experienced handlers in our club.

When your dog can stay, off leash, for at least a minute while you are 30 feet away from him, it's time to go outside. I will proof my dog on my driveway and backyard before I move on to local parks or the local Petco.

The Petco and PetSmart stores are great places to proof your dog in the winter and on rainy days in the spring. They are dog friendly but you should make sure your dog has been "exercised" before you go in. It would be a blemish on all Spaniels if suddenly a lot of Spaniels start to have accidents inside these stores.

You should start any new location on leash and close to your dog. The progression should always be in the same. Leash on close, leash on at a distance, leash off close, and finally leash off at a distance. In a short time your dog will learn that Stay means Stay always and everywhere.

If you can't depend on your dog to stay for 1 minute at home or in your own backyard you can't depend on him to stay in some strange location. There is nothing more frustrating than to have your dog pass the field portion of a Working Dog test or a Hunt Test and then have your dog break at the water.

Our dogs have been bred to want to please us. If you show your dog what you want him to do and give LOTS of positive reinforcement, you will end up with a Dog that knows that STAY means STAY.



## MHSA Meeting Minutes

Annual Banquet  
Northland Inn  
January 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 8pm

Present:

Richard Bend	Heidi Reinhardt
Chris Dartt	Jim Roberson
John Dartt	Marge Roberson
Paul Gergen	Bethann Roettger
Michael Bury	Tony Roettger
Shirley Harford	Kevin Rutherford
Dave Hofstadter	Mary Kemper
Dean Koehler	Patty Salzwedel
Lori Kohler	Tracy Salzwedel
Nadine Kohn	Doug Scurr
Duane Maki	Linda Simon
Mark Monson	Ann Sunderman
Hudson Nichols	Kim Wiley
Jon Pidde	
Sandy Pidde	

Called to order at 8:45pm

I. President's report –

Mike Bury gave a heartfelt speech thanking everyone for their participation this past year, and allowing him the opportunity to be club President. Mike also reflected on the turn out for Pheasant Fest.

II. Secretary's report – Nothing new at this time.

III. Treasure's report- Not present

I. Committee reports-

A. Nomination Committee:

2008 Board Nominees where announced

President- Dick Bend  
Vice President- Tony Roettger  
Secretary- Leanne Schmitz  
Treasurer- Lynn Lynch

Directors- Linda Simon  
Nadine Kohn  
Doug Scurr  
Charlie Casey  
Ann Sunderman

Slate was unanimously approved by all voting members

B. Spring Cocker Trial

Tony as Chair-      Dates are May 4-6<sup>th</sup>  
Judges are pending  
Jon Dartt- Gun Captain  
Linda Simon- Game Steward  
1 Amateur, 2 Open and 2 puppy stakes  
Birds on order- Chucker is 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
is pheasant  
"Young" Ness- Bird Planter

**Motion to adjourn: by Mike, second by Tony. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm**

By Tony Roettger

After judging a field trial in Texas I wanted to do some Texas hog hunting with my bow. What a trip! The rancher was very hospitable and accommodating. The rancher recommended hunting at night for that was when the hogs were going to move given the almost full moon phase. I have to admit, hunting at night is a bit tricky when you have a bow but it worked out well.

After touring the ranch and seeing some hogs on the evening of our arrival I hardly slept the night before. The rancher asked if I had a pistol which I did not so he handed me one saying, "You're going to need this. We have a mountain lion problem and you do not want to be chasing a wounded hog around the brush." Ok...was my thoughts.

I thought and feared that hog hunting would be more like shooting fish in a barrel; I was wrong. These things are smart and quick. Any smell unfamiliar to them and they are gone. As they feed they fight, dodge, jeek, jive, squeal, run, hop, you name it they do it. So when I first had a chance at the hogs I heard them coming for minutes ahead prior to actually seeing them. Then, there they were. I drew my bow and just kept trying to locate a clean shot on a good hog but this was difficult. After almost losing an arrow on at least five different hogs and holding the drawn bow for minute's one good hog finally presented a clean, clear shot. Thwack!! One shot, the hog dropped in its tracks. This was the first time this has happened according to this rancher. The BowTech and my Rage broad head got the job done.

There lied the 100 pound hog. Not the biggest hog on the planet but a good one none the less. The hog had a scar around its neck from a snare it escaped from. It also had good hair (according to the rancher) which would make a good mount...so I have a hog being mounted and meat being processed! Mmmmm, pork chops, ham and ribs...



**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

#0504 Polo w/pocket

Colors – Ash Grey, Forest Green, Steel Grey, Orange  
 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

Two-sided MHSA Logo Mug (11oz.)

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

#1630 Sweatshirt

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

#16130 Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt

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

#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

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	Qty.	Price each	Total Price
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
					\$	\$
<b>SHADED AREA FOR BOMBER JACKET ONLY:</b>						
#2110	Bomber Jacket				Crest Logo	\$
					Both Logos	\$
					Size Up Chrg	\$
					<b>Shipping (if applicable):</b>	\$
					<b>Order Total:</b>	\$

**Shipping/Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## VENISON MEAT LOAF #1

2 lbs. ground venison  
1/4 lb. pork sausage  
1/2 cup chili sauce  
1 cup tomato juice  
1 1/2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. pepper  
2 tbsp. butter  
1 cup bread crumbs  
1/2 tsp. thyme  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2 stalks celery, chopped  
2 eggs

Mix all ingredients thoroughly in a large mixing bowl. Transfer to a buttered loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/4 hours and until juices run clear. Serve hot.

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## DEEP DISH PHEASANT PIE

2-3 cups cooked, cubed pheasant  
1 10-oz. pkg. frozen peas and carrots  
1 sm. onion, chopped  
1 4-oz. can mushrooms, drained  
1/4 cup butter or margarine  
1/3 cup flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. sage  
1/8 tsp. pepper  
1 1/2 cups water  
3/4 cup milk  
1 chicken bouillon cube  
Pimento (optional)  
Parsley (optional)  
Pastry for double crust pie

Saute onion and mushrooms in butter in large skillet. Stir in flour, salt, sage, and pepper. Add water, milk, and chicken bouillon cube. Cook and stir until mixture begins to thicken. Add frozen vegetables, pheasant, pimento, and parsley. Heat until mixture is quite thick and bubbly.

Place half of pie pastry into large deep dish pie plate and turn the hot mixture into dish. Place other half of pastry over top; flute edges; cut slits in top for steam to escape. Bake 20-30 minutes at 400 degrees F. or until crust is golden brown.

## Upcoming MHSA Events

### 2008

April 26 – MHSA Club Training Day at Brad Schindler's

May 2,3,4 – MHSA Cocker Trial

May 10 & 11 – MHSA Spring Hunt Test

May 17 – MHSA Club Training Day at Roettger Ridge

June 21 – 1<sup>st</sup> MHSA Fun Trial & Working Dog Test at Major Avenue

July 19 – 2<sup>nd</sup> MHSA Fun Trial (date tentative)

Aug. – MHSA Club Picnic (date to be determined)

Aug. 16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> MHSA Fun Trial (date tentative)

Sept. 6 & 7 – MHSA Fall Hunt Test

Sept. 12-14 – MHSA Cocker Trial (tentative)

Nov. – Indoor Duck Shoot (date to be determined)



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### English Springer Spaniel Information and Field Trial Page

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