



GERMAN LONGHAISED POINTER CLUB OF NORTH AMERICA

DECEMBER 2020

Greetings! Hope everyone's having a good hunting season around the complications of a challenging 2020. Sorry it's been quite awhile since the last newsletter, but I've had the commitment of handling a work buddy's estate, which has been pretty labor intensive. I'm thankful that project is finally on the homestretch. I've had the goal of getting at least two newsletters out annually, and we just might get that done.

But getting back to the important topic of hunting, sorry to say our long-time club president, Del Peterson, along with a cadre of other club members in Washington State have had the additional complication of losing many of their chukar and quail coverts to fire this summer. Man, if bird hunting access isn't getting more challenging all the time without being fueled by natural disaster. Sure feel for you folks. My favorite goose hunting marsh is almost completely dry this fall due to moisture in eastern Wyoming being down a full third. But still, gotta say, even when game is less abundant than we'd like, being able to follow or have these instinct-laden and beautiful dogs of ours in the blind, is indeed considerable consolation. Happy hunting and always enjoy seeing pictures of your dogs.

GPS collar

As you can probably sense, I'm not a real techno-person. Yes, I'll use an e-collar in some training, but generally want to keep hunting as simple as possible and leave the gizmo in the vehicle on actual hunting trips. But in December 2019, after about the fourth time of not being able to find my dog on point in a morass of cattails or super-heavy tall-grass prairie in the last couple years — knowing full well my semi-frantic wandering was getting me within 15-20 yards of the dog — I decided to dig into my pocket and invest in a Global Positioning System or GPS collar. And the upshot: it's been worth the investment. Not only in the central Nebraska wetlands that first prompted the idea, but also on my annual ruffed grouse trip to the Wyoming Tetons. With the west side of those famous mountains being the highest moisture zone of the state, the timber and shrubs can be dense. So on my annual trip there in early October, I thought "What the heck, since you've got the contraption, use it." And although I detest wearing extra stuff around my neck, especially fighting through the willows and alders of ruffed grouse coverts, I'm here to tell you, the gizmo was well worth the complications. By not only locating a couple precious points sooner than if I didn't have the satellite assistance, but also just being able to orient and adjust to the dog accordingly, which saved me from whistling multiple times. Plus, I had one probable elk or moose chase in the thick spruce of a north-facing slope. I heard the dog open up and the receiver reported she was heading east/southeast at nearly 5 miles per hour

and reversed course back to me at about 150 yards out. The unit can also be used for conventional human GPSing, too. – Jeff Obrecht

Del's training tip

Water Info

One of the most important parts of introducing a pup to water is the choice of places. The best areas are those with a combination of intermittent land and water with short distances of swimming depth water between the areas of land and water. Temperature is also important. Avoid getting the pup chilled in cold water. The age of the pup is also important for the introduction into the water. If all conditions are suitable, 3 or 4 months is probably the time you get them in the water. My preferred method is to lead the pup into the water by wading in myself. The entry to the water should be gradual and the pup should be allowed to go at his own pace. It is sometimes helpful to involve older dogs to help encourage the younger ones. Once the pup is swimming reliably you can advance to using bumpers and birds in the water. Also, you can coax pups into the water with a wing attached on a fishing pole. The most important thing is not to use force at anytime.

Things Not To Do:

Do not use birds that are in any way spoiled or damaged. You do not want the dog to find out that there is anything good in there. One has to be especially careful with water because water dampens the feathers and makes the bird more accessible to the dog. – Del Peterson



Here's Geert, Del's new puppy from Mitch Rohlf's' litter this spring, responding well to Del's water introduction.

Breeding report/planning

In the last issue we shared our critical need to import semen from Europe for our next breedings. We're still working our Danish and Dutch connections for that need and are pretty sure we'll get that done for a 2021 breeding or two. But for 2020, Janet Vorenkamp, board member and veteran longhair breeder from Yakima, Washington, came to the rescue. She's been connected to the Dutch GLP club for years and was owner of semen from one of Holland's best dogs in recent history. She provided that semen to breed some of our best Danish blood owned by Mitch Rohlf, also of Yakima. That teamwork not only resulted in a litter of seven dandy puppies but also Janet helping with the labor-intensive rearing and administration of a good-sized litter. Hats off to Janet and Mitch for pitching in with this great contribution to the breed, club and new owners.



Feature article in NAVHDA magazine

Last spring, Del Peterson realized 2020 was the 30th anniversary of the club and suggested we deserved some publicity. So, along with Janet and veteran member Bill Wichers of Hamilton, Montana, we teamed up, crafted an article and got it featured in the July issue of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association's magazine. If you haven't read it yet, there's some really good history here. An important addition to the story: We regret we forgot to mention that Mitch Rohlf of Yakima was also a founding member of the club. Hopefully a PDF of the story is attached to this email.



Meet the Malcolms, club members from Gunnison, Colorado. When the pandemic got rolling last spring, the local newspaper ran a photo overview of some area residents. Heather is a nurse and CJ a EMT/paramedic supervisor. Between mom and dad are Aspen and Colter — and the headliner: 2-year-old longhair, Yukon. Have to say, his acceptance of the mask, if even for just a photo, speaks to the temperament and trainability of our dogs.

In Memoriam

Sorry to report, long-time longhair owner and club member Dr. Tom Perry of Yakima, Washington passed away December 4 from complications following a heart attack. He was 78. In addition to being an avid waterfowl hunter, Tom was a retired dermatologist.

In July 2017, Tom and fellow long-time longhair owner, Bill Von Stubbe, made the significant trek to Cheyenne, Wyoming to pick up not just puppies for themselves, but two additional puppies for other Washington hunters. Tom wanted the best-swimming male pup, so after taking the litter to a pond to show off their aquatic aptitude, the three of us had dinner and an overall very enjoyable encounter. Tom and Bill's effort in transporting four 10-week-old puppies clear across the western United States was a commendable contribution to the breed and club. Tom was having a good waterfowl season with the pup he picked, Walter, and was even in the blind the morning before his heart attack. His obituary reads: "Favorite memories include ... hunting at the duck club in the lower valley with his beloved German Longhaired Pointers"

Doc Perry, we appreciate your contributions. Thank you.

Well, dog-holding-bird photos are pretty commonplace, but it wasn't only the late light of the day that made this one memorable. Just a few minutes before sundown on December 3 in the Nebraska panhandle a rooster pheasant cackled a couple hundreds yards to the northwest. I briskly headed that direction. When I got in the general area I whistled the dogs up from the draw below. Cora, pictured, responded and immediately pointed. Her mother froze up right behind her and here's the result.

Would enjoy seeing photos of your dogs, too. Thanks.

