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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The weather goes from freezing cold to too much snow. All hard to train in! As we enter the chapters first training sessions of 2007 (March 10 and 18), I find many unanswered questions. The use of Etna Creek Aquatic Management Area (Tammel Springs), as an area for training, is still in question. The State of Minnesota has not yet mailed the training permits we all need to be in the fields with our dogs. The State of Wisconsin is working through the process with SoMN NAVHDA for our training grounds there and we are permitted and ready to go. The executive board is working on these questions as I write this message. I will have to ask that everyone pay attention to the website and emails because we may be moving the location of this first training session of the year.

The fall test has been approved and is on the NAVHDA website. If you want to enter our test, get your entry forms and money to Monica Redmond (monicaredmond@hotmail.com) as soon as possible. This test fills up fast. I have had a few questions about the Spring NA test the chapter was hoping to put on. We are not going to do a 2007 Spring Test but will start working on a Spring 2008 NA test.

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Upcoming Events:

March 10, 2007
Training Day

March 18, 2007
Training Day

April 14, 2007
Training Day

April 29, 2007
Training Day

WEBSITE

somnnavhda.com

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President's Message – Matt Dodd

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SoMN NAVHDA is always looking for more chapter sponsors. Please think about whom you might ask to sponsor our chapter for the upcoming year (see article in this newsletter). And remember to please support those companies that are currently sponsoring us. Their support has made things go a little easier for the chapter this last year.

Name tags- SoMN NAVHDA will again be ordering name tags for training sessions. I do not have a price yet but it should be under \$10.00. Please email me (mcdodd01@hotmail.com) if you are interested. I started the list at the annual meeting so if you signed up then I already have your request.

Birds- The chapter is always looking for training birds, if you have a source please help out. Bird requests for the training days can be ordered by contacting Scott Schiebel (schiebel@acegroup.cc) or myself. Please try to have your requests in the week before the training day.

Bassett Grounds- SoMN NAVHDA has been asked to put some sweat equity into these grounds in exchange for their use. We are compiling a list of possible projects that we can work on. We are looking at doing this work in conjunction with the March 18th training session. More info will come as the plans are finalized.

What else am I forgetting?

The chapter has been working on many things these last 2 months preparing for the upcoming training and testing season. Please remember your training permits for Etna, watch your email for more updates and we hope to see you all soon.

Matt

Chapter History

Birth date — May 25, 1996

Birth place — John Hardy's BBQ in Rochester, MN

Founding members — Mike Zimmer, Kevin Watkins, and Gunnar Kruger

Charter members still active — Clyde & Mary Thurnau, Paul Fischenich, and Gunnar Kruger

Current chapter membership – 31 and growing

Dog breeds represented in membership – Wire-haired Pointing Griffon, German Shorthair, German Wirehair, French Spaniel, Small Munsterlander, Large Munsterlander, Cesky-Fousek, Deutsch Drahthaar, Bracco Italiano, English Setter, Vizsla, Pudelpointer, Brittany Spaniel, and Italian Spinone.

Chukar's for sale

I have about a dozen mature strong flying chukar for sale at \$6.00 each. I am located in SE Rochester. Contact Doug Courneya at doug.courneya@worldnet.att.net or (507) 251-2535.

Gun Proofing and Bird Exposure

By Ed Erickson

This can be done at 5-6 months of age. You will need a supply of pigeons, a blank pistol, a .410 a 20ga and a 12ga shotgun.

You start out with a hobbled pigeon so it will not flop its wings and spook the pup. Tease the pup with the bird getting it very excited then throw the bird and let the pup chase and sniff and pick it up if it so desires. Let the pup parade around and show its trophy off.

With the check cord you slowly and gently reel the pup in (remember that all this needs to be a very positive and happy experience). Be sure the pup is very excited around birds and chasing birds before you move on to gunfire.

When the blank pistol is introduced, be sure you and the bird are in front of the pup (you may need a helper to hold the pup) with the pups attention focused on the wing clipped bird throw the bird in the air and when the pup is in full chase point the blank pistol towards the ground and fire watching the pup at all times for any reaction from the gun fire.

If you see a reaction to the gunfire you will need to muffle the shot noise or move further away from the pup. You may want to throw a few birds with no shot then shoot once then throw again without a shot and then evaluate. Be sure you do not talk or make reference to the gunfire as you want the pup to associate the noise with the bird and that this is a good and happy thing in its life.

When you are comfortable with the pups experience with the blank pistol move on to the .410 and do exactly the same drills until you have achieved success through each gauge level, then finishing with shooting the 12ga over the dog as it runs by you. As an owner, if you feel that this may not be something you want to attempt, do not hesitate to contact a professional trainer to help you. Bird and gun exposure are one of the most important steps in build the foundation of a quality bird dog and as the owner it is up to you to bring out the best in your hunting companion.

Interesting Website

I was sent this by a friend and thought that it was very interesting. By taking this test you are given your dog's personality profile or CPP (Canine Personality Profile). The objective, as stated on the website, is to help you understand how to approach your dog's training.

By using the on-line version...<http://www.volhard.com/training/cpp.htm>...you are given a score. Here is the scoring of my two hunting dogs:

Josie (Wire-haired Pointing Griffon)

Prey = 60

Pack = 70

Defense - Fight = 40

Defense - Flight = 35

Emma (Deutsch Drahthaar)

Prey = 95

Pack = 80

Defense - Fight = 50

Defense - Flight = 10

Some of the comments at the end of the web page are also very interesting. One of my favorites is, "You can readily see that those times when you want him to behave you have to convince your dog to forget about being in prey drive. Most often it is prey drive that gets dogs into trouble. The dog with high pack and low prey drive rarely needs training." Say what? For what we do, controlled prey drive is of utmost importance! As a side note, several of my friends took this test for their Labrador retrievers...much lower prey drive scores.

Vaughn

CESKY WHAT...?

By Monica Redmond

The Cesky Fousek is a Czechoslovakian breed closely related to the Drahthaar and Stichelhaar. The breed originates from some time in the 14th century, was almost lost during WWI, and was revived in the 1920's. Cesky Fouseks are also known as Rough-coated Bohemian Pointers, Czech Coarse Haired Pointers or Slovakian Wirehaired Pointers. Today the breed is one of the most common hunting dogs in Eastern Europe. Our dog Louie (Fousek Z Mashek Alouis) has been our only interaction with this breed, and maybe yours as well – Louie's NAVHDA registration number is 58.



What does a Cesky Fousek look like?

Louie fits the breed standard - about 70 pounds, lean, long-legged and easily mistaken for a German Wirehair, Drahthaar or even a Griffon. They grow to about 24" -26" high and are supposed to be as tall as they are long. Ceskys have a three-layered coat, colored liver and white or solid liver, with or without ticking. They are bearded dogs and "Fousek" means "flowing beard". One of the unusual breed characteristics is a scissors bite, which we're not quite sure Louie has. The poor judge who took two attempts at the NA test to determine that has a scar to show it.

For other characteristics we probably should have done our research a little more thoroughly. From web research I've gathered these common traits:

"Cesky Fouseks are known for their high energy level". One website even warns that a CF has more energy than even "the most athletic family" can handle. If so, Louie is definitely typical - an hour of running every day barely takes the edge off. This is great when hunting – but he also will not quit. When we're ready to pack it in for the day after 6 or more hours, he's digging holes in the ground or tearing apart his kennel. He also does not sleep and we've had to recruit three dogs to run him with once a week to help exercise him.

"Cesky Fouseks are noted for becoming attached to their family and are unhappy when left alone". I would say this can be true for many individual dogs, and Louie is no exception. He must keep tabs on us at all times and will check in regularly when out in the field, monitors everyone in the house and really hates being left behind.

"Cesky Fouseks are known for their intelligence", as most proponents of particular breeds will claim about their favorite. If opening doors, turning on faucets and thievery are signs of intelligence, then Louie is typical in this respect too. He gets bored easily, with training and general daily activities both. Keeping him occupied is a challenge, even though he's very good at finding his own projects.

"Cesky Fouseks are known barkers". We get all sorts of howling and barking directed our way, but he will stare quizzically at another barking dog – see above under intelligence. Those of you who have been to training sessions with us know he's in the running for the title of loudest dog in the chapter. He does "talk" a lot and always has. When we first brought him home he would howl when eating, he "coos" himself to sleep and once looked deep into my eyes and said something almost intelligible, but that's another (and kind of disconcerting) story.

"Cesky Fouseks are enthusiastic and versatile hunters". The real reason we got him. As a hunter he's more than I know what to do with. Louie's 112 Prize I at the NA test had very little to do with me. He has an intense point – he has the "long lines and stretching point" the breed is known for, but I have also seen a scrunched up version that happens when his legs get ahead of his nose. CF's are supposed to display enthusiasm for hunting on land and in water; we have yet to see Louie lack enthusiasm for anything new and especially anything involving hunting or swimming in any kind of weather. He's quite athletic and we've seen him leap onto the dining room table from a stand still and once found him halfway up a ladder. A brief experiment with agility classes had him racing the course on the first day. Trying to get him to focus has been a challenge but as he gets older and we attend more training days we're making progress.

We've been asked a lot about this breed and are trying to find more information – we hope Louie doesn't scare anyone away! Is a Cesky Fousek for you? Ask me on the right day and you might get to try one out...

2007 Chapter Sponsorship Drive

By Scott Schiebel

It's a new year with a great season of training and testing ahead of us. In addition to the hard work and countless hours we will spend with our dogs in the coming months, the training and testing we are providing costs you, and your NAVHDA chapter money. Last year Southern Minnesota NAVHDA started a chapter sponsorship program that helps to offset those costs with the help of local businesses and organizations. In exchange for their monetary support, our chapter promotes those businesses through our website, newsletter, and hopefully our patronage. If you have a business or organization that you think might be willing to help us out, don't be afraid to ask. Some suggestions might include a veterinarian office (we spend way too much on our dogs), a new or used car dealership (we do love our trucks and SUV's), a financial institution (NAVHDA members income levels are impressive as outlined below), and how about one of those big sporting goods chains (where we're regular visitors). There is a downloadable sponsorship flyer on the chapter website that will help potential sponsors sign up. Here are some interesting NAVHDA facts you may want to share with them:

- ✓ NAVHDA has approximately 5,000 total members internationally.
- ✓ Over 84% of NAVHDA's membership has an annual income greater than \$50,000.
- ✓ Over 61% of NAVHDA's membership has an annual income greater than \$75,000.
- ✓ Over 42% of NAVHDA's membership has an annual income greater than \$100,000.
- ✓ 67% of NAVHDA members are influenced or inclined to purchase sponsor products.
- ✓ 36% of NAVHDA members own 3 or more dogs.
- ✓ 63% of NAVHDA members own one or two dogs.
- ✓ 92% of NAVHDA members upland bird hunt six or more days per year.
- ✓ 45% of NAVHDA members waterfowl hunt six or more days each year.
- ✓ Over 97% of NAVHDA members participate in other shotgun shooting sports.
- ✓ NAVHDA members spend \$144,000 per year on hunting boots.
- ✓ NAVHDA members own \$1,703,680 worth of electronic collars and training devices.
- ✓ Over 80% of NAVHDA members use an SUV or a Pick-up truck for hunting.
- ✓ Southern Minnesota NAVHDA's website was visited by over 2,500 users in 2006 alone.

Southern Minnesota NAVHDA Sponsorship Levels

BRONZE

- Business Card ad on our website.
- \$50 renewable annually.

SILVER

- Business card ad on our website with a link to your business website.
- Business card ad on our monthly newsletter.
- \$100 renewable annually.

GOLD

- Business card ad on our website with a link to your business website.
- 1/3 page ad on our monthly newsletter.
- Recognition Plaque for display.
- \$200 renewable annually.

PLATINUM

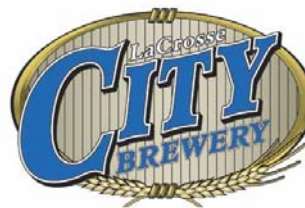
- Business card ad on our website with a link to your business website.
- 1/3 page ad on our monthly newsletter
- Raffle sponsorship – logo included on raffle tickets for chapter raffles.
- Recognition Plaque for display.

-
- \$300 renewable annually.
-

Southern Minnesota
North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association

Chapter Newsletter
March 2007

Thank you to our chapter sponsors!
Please support them whenever possible.



Fantastic Homemade Pizza!!!



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