



DPCNA NEWS

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Chairman's message - Submitted by Brian O'Connor

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It's been a long time coming; getting our first newsletter put together. This newsletter closes the DPCNA's first year! It may not seem like it, but a lot has happened indeed; our by-laws and code of ethics is fully supported by de Vereniging, we have a nice web page, our incorporation has been completed, and Gun Dog magazine was interested enough they had writer Dave Carty meet us in Arizona for an interview, and hunt - the article is forthcoming. Membership continues to grow in spurts, we have a PayPal account, and soon payment of dues by way of the internet will be facilitated (my computer crashing again really hasn't helped that cause much). We successfully held our first Board meeting in Idaho, hosted by our trusty, and most knowledgeable, Vice President and his wonderful family, more details to be included later. Additionally we own a professional copy of Breeders Assistant pedigree software, and have loaded more than a hundred Drents into our database. In the twilight hours of 2009 our American Kennel Club (AKC), Foundation Stock Service (FSS) application was sent off, and the FSS committee quickly accepted us for consideration by the AKC. We still have a hurdle or two to clear with the AKC, but soon we will be able to enroll our Drents to participate in AKC events; shows, agility, hunting trials, etc. The DPCNA may be a fledgling club, but I am very proud of our accomplishments to date.

For those wanting to participate in field trial type events I would encourage you to contact the Versatile Hunting Dog Federation (www.VHDF.org) as they offer hunting tests and trials in a similar way to how they are managed in the Netherlands. Please take a moment to review their web page for details, I think you will find it time well spent.



It's all fun and games, until someone gets the cone!

Lastly, I'd like to make an appeal to you for your assistance. The club still needs volunteers, heading up the newsletter - not necessarily to write the whole thing, but to ensure we are moving in the right direction and at the right time - we welcome stories about your Drent, or for that matter, any dog related information which you feel would be relevant and helpful to the membership. Also it would be wonderful to get a real webmaster on board, I manage at the moment, but calling me a web-"master" is quite the misnomer!

Before I sign off, I would like to thank you one and all for your support, it's been an amazing first year!

Sincerely, Brian O'Connor

All board members were present.

1) Discussion was held regarding Dutch imports without pedigree: All agreed that this issue would be handled as any other potential applicant. Proof of registration in parent Dutch Registry or proof of eligibility in the form of a letter from the breeder that the dog was from a litter that was registered or eligible for registration. (CLOSED).

2) President reported that he was finalizing a draft to be submitted to the AKC, after it was proof read, for their acceptance and/or recognition of the DPCNA. (OPEN, 1st draft sent 20 Dec 09. OPR Pres/Exec. Council).

3) Discussion of Pedigree program for computer: President gave a report on his research on different computer programs with pros and cons and costs. He gave a visual display on one, it would have the ability to trace back thirty-two generations and cost was reasonable. This program seemed to be a good choice by all present. Our thanks and appreciations go out to Brian for all his time and effort on this project and the previously noted draft for the AKC. (CLOSED) (User modifiable genetics to be ordered – OPEN. OPR Registrar).

4) Treasurer handed out business cards with our Registry logo and contact information on them for each board member, also decal stickers with our registry logo. These will be included in each packet with the welcome letter sent out to each new member. (CLOSED. OPR Treasurer).

5) Membership dates: Question was brought up as to how membership dates will be applied. For the time being it was decided to keep it as it is, whenever membership is first started that will be the month to renew. As membership grows then we will make the date the same for everyone, first of the year, fiscal year, etc. Whichever is decided upon at that time. After a certain number of members it will become too difficult and time consuming to track each member's individual renewal date. (OPEN).



Drents in the kitchen, please don't tell me you are surprised

6) PayPal: At some point we would set up a PayPal account to make it easier to accept international and Canadian payments. At this time it costs more in bank fees to cash an international check than the amount of the check itself. All were in agreement on this. (OPEN, process initiated with PayPal, close out prior to March 2010. OPR Treasurer).

7) Membership: Discussion was held on ways to promote membership. While we are all eager and anxious to see our membership grow we soon realized through our discussion that growth is probably going to continue at a slow pace. Due in part to the economic situation we are all in now, but even more so due to the small numbers of the breed here in the U.S. Membership now is probably of more interest to the serious breeder and due to the fact that most of our dogs belong to non breeders. So we understand that as much as we would like to see membership grow at a faster pace we should remember that in promoting this breed of more importance is to ensure the health and integrity of the bloodlines and not in just getting numbers of these dogs out in the community. Adhering to our strict guidelines of breeding and placement of our beloved Drent into the proper homes should be our main goal as well as being a "go to place" for people to come to for information and advice on the breed. Slow and steady is better, as the breed gets out into the public they will be our best ambassadors to bring more interest to them and our group. (OPEN).

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8) Discussed code of ethics of breeding in our by-laws to make sure everything was covered in regard to genetic abnormalities being recorded and tracked. Also that we have the ability to make changes in our guidelines as needed, as long as the standard or intent is not diminished. (OPEN, OPR Exec. Council)

9) Discussion of PRA; CERF; and OFA requirements: Unanimous decision to follow Dutch registry breed standards. (OPEN, VP)

Meeting was adjourned.



Idaho hunting stories – submitted by Brian O'Connor

Okay so I promised stories a while back...this was before I was told to pack my household and move to Spain. As you can probably imagine the move has been life altering. To add to the fun my trusty laptop, died a hard and nasty death just as I thought I would be getting some things done. Even with backups resorting files onto your new computer takes time and energy. So without further adieu...

Our first DPCNA board meeting was nothing short of amazing; great dogs and fantastic people make for a wonderfully memorable hunting trip and somehow we managed to take care of some DPCNA work along the way.

Day one was for Sage Grouse, and to be honest I'm still surprised with the size of this fantastic bird. On day two, Nik and I visited Yellowstone National Park, the visit was short because the wild fires had many of the parks roads closed and because of the road closes we came back just early enough to hunt for Ruffed Grouse once we crossed back into Idaho. I found a nice covey located in some dense spruce cover and managed to collect two, and scare a few more.

Day three John and I went North and West for Chukar; the weather was deplorable; cold, windy, with light rain mixed with mini-hail and snow at one point. Despite the conditions we persevered, covered the territory and managed to connect with a few birds.

We swept up a broken covey, 5-8 or so singles, and a couple of small groups of 3-5 birds on one big hill side...we pushed to the North with the wind blowing 20+ miles an hour, and just above freezing. Finally I got to a rocky out-crop with some nice sized sage brush for cover, and thought to myself "If I were a Chukar, that's where I'd be". Pax and Clio were moving in, both were acting birdy, but it didn't seem either were aware exactly where the birds might be...and then right in front of my face, the Chukar started to boil out, the dogs were off to the left of the covey, not at all in the scent cone, and I was caught flat footed, despite having that thought go through my head. Easily 20 birds burst out of what seemed to be a single little bush...I tried to pick one of the late ones, but they all flew with and like the wind - I'm afraid I was behind it. John was laughing. After that, we decided to head back to the truck and work a new area. It wasn't long after that, walking with the wind, we came to a sharp draw, John and I stopped to talk about Chukar and telling "fairytale"...and a group of rocks started to move and then one took flight! With a fantastic shot John busted it; head over heels it dumped onto the sage and rock.

"...and then right in front of my face, the Chukar started to boil out..."



Jim in search of Sharptail

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John's Clio

Later in a new area, we were driving on a trail, and where the trail crossed a creek we happened to notice, to our good fortune, a nice sized covey of Chukar taking water, easily 20 birds strong. Quickly we put Booker and Clio down, John and I ended up a good distance apart, he was chasing the main portion of the covey, and I was behind a small group of maybe 8 birds running up a wickedly steep hill. I could only see their heads zigzagging through the sparse grass and rock. Finally one of the laggards, a good sized bird, chose to fly - a poor decision. My second Chukar was taken further up the hill under similar circumstances. As I neared my second bird, I got to look around just in time to see a Chukar break not far from John, it was free and clear heading towards the ridge to the South, John

made a wonderful shot, the kind that would make for good television, and Clio made a perfect retrieve. We made it back to John's house late in the evening to find Jim had made it in safely, he had been experiencing problems with his truck, and nearly had to call off his trip.

Day four was for Sharptails and Huns and I have to brag a little – you've been waiting for this part I'm sure of it - Little Booker, 13 months old at the time, seemed to "get it" early in the day when he witnessed a single bird fly up the hillside sprinkled with sage brush, and a heavy cover of grass all blanketed with a few inches of snow cover. Jim and I had Paxson and Booker down, they cut across and began to work up the hillside and into the wind up to the place we marked the bird's landing. The boys got pretty animated as they neared the area where we believed the bird to be. I told Pax "easy", he restrained himself and got focused, however they passed to a location uphill and upwind of the bird, then they both turned sharply downhill towards the bird. Pax began running out to my right maybe 80 yards, and Booker came down directly in the direction of the bird, stopping 10/15 yards uphill and upwind of the bird. Tail and head held high, and then as if we didn't realize he was pointing, he started to bark - feet planted firmly. Within 30 seconds the bird flushed out to my right on its own, as Jim was talking to Booker. Jim made a wonderful passing shot, and the bird pitched down near Pax, who retrieved the bird cleanly! Latter in the day, Booker and I hunted a band of old growth sage three to four feet tall or so, with high grass throughout, all covered with a patches of snow several inches deep. We were forced to work the area mostly with the wind, as we moved through the sage back to the truck. Booker was working diligently in the challenging conditions despite the fact I was becoming more convinced the plateau we were hunting was a bird free zone. Then unexpectedly Booker got a birdy, and I could see how he was trying to figure out how to work this wind. Then he locked up tail into the wind just as if his front feet were on a giant glue trap, standing stock still - on point. The wheels in my brain spinning: 3, 2, 1, the bird flushed on its own maybe 10 yards off his nose. Unfortunately I didn't switch barrels and sent a load of 7-1/2's into the backside of the grouse; I had been prepared for finding Huns. The grouse pitched nose down, tail feathers cut, and it was gone. I marked the place I figured the bird to have gone down, but nothing...and Booker wasn't

"hunting dead". He was busy being a puppy. I really do not like losing birds, so I tried to stay up beat as I searched and tried to encourage him to help and it worked. Once Booker was on board, he quickly located the bird hidden deep in a sage, surrounded with high grass, and snow. In fact when I looked into the bush I didn't even see the bird until it moved its head!

Day five was for Sharptails on the drive out, again we were successful! It's safe to say I couldn't have hoped for a trip half as successful and to see the amazing countryside of Idaho. Now if we can get John to tell the story about some mud we found...



Jim and Marsha hunting Huns and Sharptail

Meadowbrook Kennel proudly presents the First DPCNA approved litter of pups.

Bowi the Gloucester and Dutchess van Oudsher did a good job! Only three but what beauties, two boys and one girl. The little girl has the saddle across her back and is mostly white and the ones with a lot of plates are the boys. They are all doing great and the pups are almost walking at nine days old, born March 23rd. They all have homes already, one here in Washington state, one in Ohio, and one in Texas. The lower right picture has uncles Duke and Bear along with Diane helping Dutchess keep an eye on the babies.



Momma Dutchess and her babies



Baby Drents! It hardly gets better than that!



Dianne Millington and her clan

Dutchboy Kennels: Three Drents to Canada! — submitted by John Lambregts

Now THIS is a birthday present! On April 5th, Clio van 't Arret whelped 2 males and 2 females, sired by Bowi the Gloucester. All went easy, other than the 3 a.m. start of delivery. However, Clio was considerate enough to deliver the fourth pup five minutes before the kids had to go off to school for the day. Three of the pups have homes in Canada, one with life-member Jim Johnson in the Maritimes, and two will get to terrorize the Hungarian Partridge on the plains of Alberta. Good to see the North American part of the DPCNA become even more important!

You know, nobody wished me happy birthday.....

As you know, it's hard to compete with puppies!
So from everyone: Happy belated Birthday John!



Clio's timing is great, and the puppies, well, just have a look!

Summertime Drent Treats, “Pupsicles” — submitted by Nicolle L. O’Connor

While living in the desert heat of New Mexico I wanted to give my dogs a cool treat. I found *Pupsicles* did the trick! Not only are they easy to make, they are good for your dogs as well. I am sure I will be making them on hot summer days here in Spain as well.

From the **You Bake Em’ Dog Biscuits Cookbook** by Janie Adams.

32 ounces low-fat or non-fat yogurt

2 mashed bananas

½ cup natural peanut butter

2 tablespoons honey



Bowie

Combine all of the ingredients in a bowl. Blend well. Fill small paper cups (like the three-ounce bathroom-size paper cups) with the mixture. Freeze for at least two hours or until solid. To serve, let thaw slightly and pop a *Pupsicle* out of the cup into a bowl by squeezing the bottom of the cup.

Please note: I’ve found using an ice cube tray works well, only thing being the treats aren’t as big but much easier to deal with. Just pop and treat!

Parting Shots

When returning to New Mexico from Idaho, back in September, we took a slight detour so Brian could meet his bird hunting hero, Harley Jackson, host of the show *American Gun Dog*. Drents do much more than point and retrieve birds, they bring people together.



If you have something you would like to share with DPCNA News, please get in touch with one of our Board Members. We are open to ideas, and suggestions and would enjoy hearing from you.

Have a little bit of spare time you wouldn’t mind donating to assist the DPCNA? Please let us know what you might be interested in helping with.

DPCNA Special Thanks & Credits

Photography: Nicolle O’Connor; pages one, three, four & five. Brian O’Connor; page three. Jim Millington; page two & five.

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